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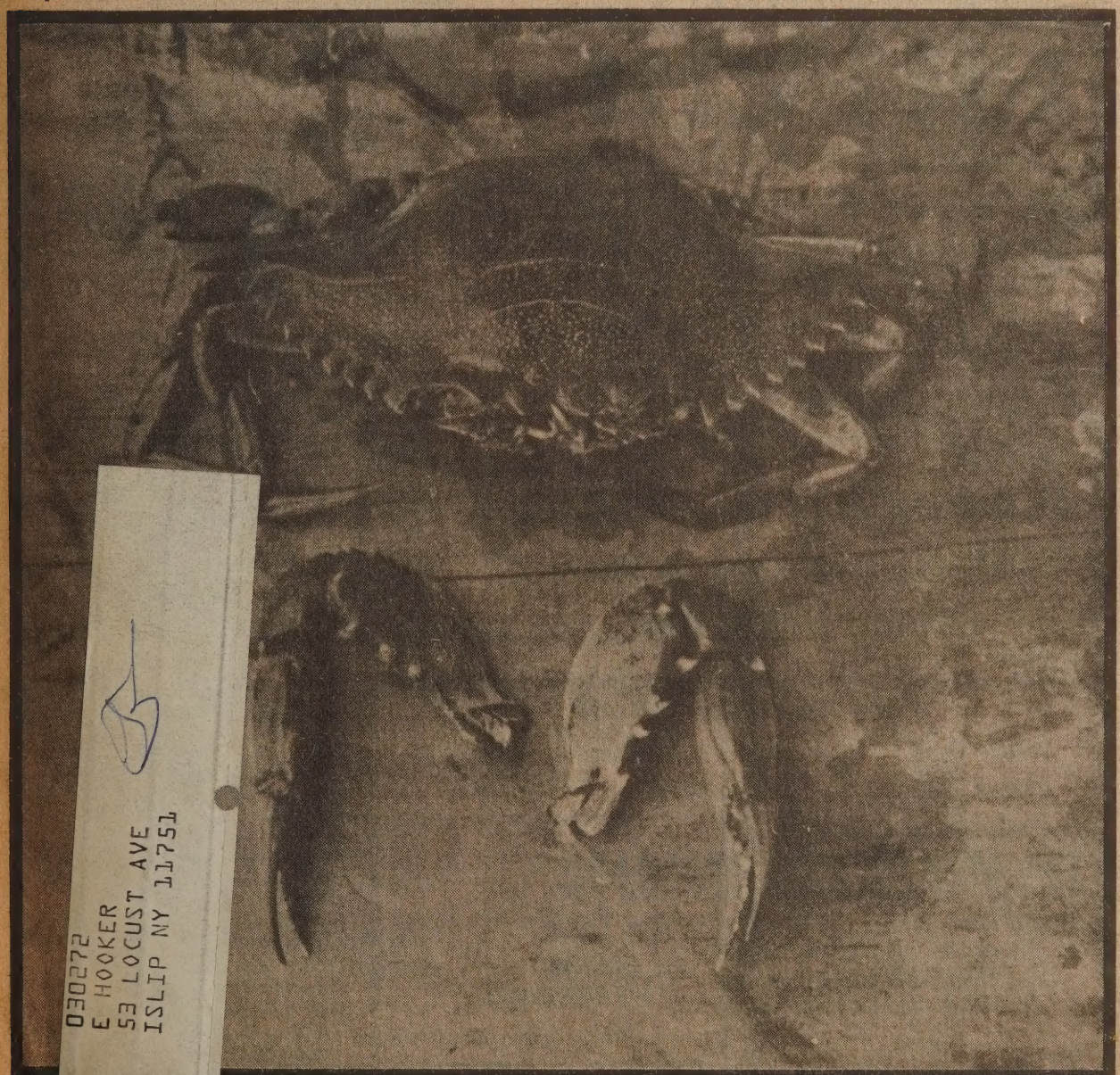

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The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

Volume 14, Number 38 **September 20th, 1979**

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
Fall Flounder

About the Cover—

Blueclaw crabs are a lot of fun to catch and make great eating, too—find out how to catch them on page 22 and how to eat them on page 14 of this issue.

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Scott Simons MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Wm. A. Muller EDITOR
Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Pete Barrett NEW JERSEY EDITOR
Tim Coleman NEW ENGLAND EDITOR
Rich Reina Jr. PRODUCTION MANAGER

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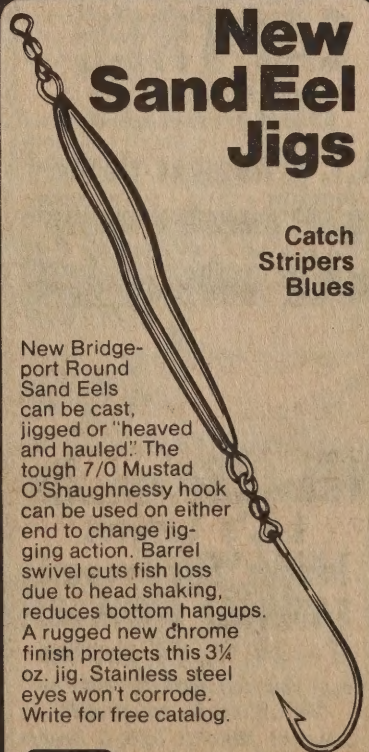

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CHUM LINES

WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT KNOTS

For the past ten weeks or so, I have purchased your magazine and I find it very interesting and helpful.

Although I fish from the shore almost exclusively, I read your magazine from cover to cover, storing information on all types of fishing for future reference. I even clip out and save articles on rigging baits, cleaning fish, recipes, etc.

My problem is this: when someone writes "He used an improved clinch knot," I begin to flounder. I don't even know the original clinch knot. Also, what in the name of Neptune is a "dropper loop," and how do I tie it?

Will you please tell me which back issues I must order, or what I must do to learn these knots. It's very important to me, because I always fish alone or with a friend who knows even less than I about such things. I'd like to become a self-sufficient fisherman, and I think you can help.

Once again, I enjoy your magazine, so please keep it up. At the same time, I will continue reading with the vigor of feeding blues.

Thanks for your help and happy fishing. *Tom Newman, Garden City, New York.*

From time to time articles will include diagrams of how to tie popular knots, but space considerations and redundancy limit those times. We suggest that you purchase a copy of the book "Practical Fishing Knots" by Lefty Kreh and Mark Sosin. It contains hundreds of easy to follow, step-by-step photos, and is available by sending $4.95 to The Long Island Fisherman. Another excellent source is a free booklet put out by Stren Line. Send a large, self-addressed, stamped ($.30) envelope, requesting a copy of "Fishing Knots You Can Depend On" to: DuPont Company, PP&R Dept., Stren Fishing Line, Wilmington, Delaware 19878. Scott S.

QUERY ON OLD FISHING REEL

I have been a subscriber to Long Island Fisherman for many years, and for the first time, I am writing you to ask for some help.

I have a regular revolving spool fishing reel, and while cleaning it awhile back, the ECCENTRIC (like part #19 Penn) was lost.

The name of the reel is ATLANTIC #115 (made in USA).

I've tried to get this eccentric in five different tackle shops, to no avail.

Would you know who makes this reel, so that I could write for this part? Apparently it is not made by Penn. I would appreciate any help you can give me. Lewis A. Moss, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sorry, Lew—we drew a blank on this one. But perhaps one of our readers will know and write Chum Lines. Scott S.

LIKES SURF REPORTS

I am writing this letter to you to cover a few subjects. Your new section devoted to Surf Reports is great, and I like the effort you're making to get exact locations. You are also doing a terrific job in keeping fishermen informed on items that concern us and how to take action in our favor.

There is one subject I would like to bring up and express an opinion on—this is the saltwater fishing license. I would not mind paying for a license, but only if the money goes to improve fishing facilities. But this being New York State, we all know where the money will go. If there was a guarantee that's where the money went, I wouldn't mind paying. *Joseph Feigenbaum, Hicksville, N.Y.*

BALDWIN ROD & GUN CLUB HAPPY WITH PARKS DEPT.

ED.'S NOTE: The following letter was sent by the Baldwin Rod and Gun Club to Mr. Joseph Lesinski, Supt. of Jones Beach State Park.

Dear Mr. Lesinski: I recently had the pleasure of discussing problems associated with the surf (or shore-bound) angler fishing the Jones Beach facilities at night. These problems, as we had discussed, center around, but are not limited to, misuse of the facilities by non permit-holding persons who use the facilities at night for purposes other than, or in addition to, fishing. The results are often costly vandalism damaging our State Park and environment.

Our concern, as you may recall, was that the result of this misuse, aside from the costly destruction mentioned before, was the possible removal or further restriction of the sport fisherman's night fishing privileges.

After our conversation I discussed these problems with the members of the Baldwin Rod & Gun Club at our Executive Meeting and with other 'regulars" who use the facilities. In all cases, a very strong concern was expressed with a desire to see these problems rectified.

In addition to the problem of enforcement, concern was shown in the excessive time taken in the repair of the fishing pier which was damaged last winter.

In these areas, we are pleased to see that positive action has been taken. The damaged pier has been repaired and the barricade, which was recently set up, has significantly reduced the number of persons using the piers at night indicating fairly heavy usage in the past by

persons who did not have night fishing permits.

This barricade, *if continued*, should cut down and hopefully eliminate the problem of vandalism in this area.

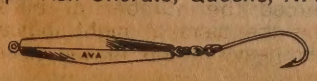
We, of the Baldwin Rod & Gun Club, are encouraged both by your willingness to discuss these and other problems of concern to the sport fishermen, and by your actions taken to resolve the problems previously mentioned. Accordingly, we would like to suggest the possibility of arranging an informal meeting between yourself and representatives of local fishing clubs whose members regularly use these facilities. A representation of non-club affiliated fishermen should also attend. With this closer communication between your office and the sport fishermen we can address other problem areas and hopefully reach a mutually beneficial arrangement.

This, we hope, will lead to increased use and enjoyment of the park facilities by all concerned, as well as increased protection of properties and the marine environment in our State Park. Sincerely, *Donald E. Palmer, Chairman, Public Relations.*

END OF AN ERA?

It now seems apparent that we have come to the end of an era of rod and reel fishing as we have known it in the past. Since the inception of the 200-Mile Limit, things have gone from bad to worse. The striped bass are finished; porgies, fluke, and sea bass are virtually non-existent, even at Montauk; blues and weaks provide some relief, but even they are sporadic. Offshore, the bluefin tuna are so scarce it's hard to grab even a couple. Sharks and marlin are plentiful enough, but how many people really go at them? So it seems that we have reached the end of an era of fishing. This is really a dilemma: do we simply hang up our rods and go into other hobbies; do we fish harder and longer just to get even a few fish, and doing this at a time of higher prices for gas, tackle, etc., and in the face of ever-increasing crowds?

And what of future generations? Where do we put the blame? Is all this a natural occurrence,; is it totally a result of our own greed? Is it a combination of both? We can sit down and look back and say this should have been done, and that should have been done—but since it wasn't, we are stuck with our present situation. It is a frightening thought, these questions, and the prospects for the future are even more frightening. As one who has spent a lifetime pursuing these fish, the end is really a hard thing to accept. *Ron Onorato, Queens, N.Y.*



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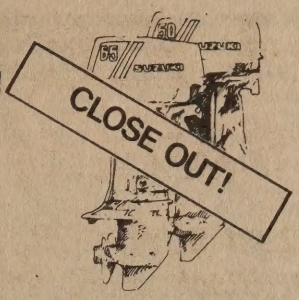

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N.Y. FISHING WRITERS SAMPLE BIG GAME FISHING IN MADEIRA

Madeira—that splendid volcanic island, erupting out of the bluest waters imaginable in the Atlantic Ocean, a few hundred miles south of Portugal and west of the African Coast—is a renowned, year-round tourist paradise, with consistent seasonal climate around 70°875°. For several centuries, it has attracted discriminating English and European clientele looking for sunshine and warmer climate. However, Madeira is still a relatively undiscovered destination for the American traveler, even though there are a multitude of pleasures to fulfill the needs and desires of any Yankee.

TAP, the Airline of Portugal, has developed a number of "TAP-happy" tour programs to Madeira to interest any American looking for an inviting European destination. Among these programs is "Big Game Fishing in Madeira." This lush-green majestic isle has always been considered by game fishermen as one of the world's truly challenging angling areas. It is unquestionably a sportsman's paradise. On any given day, giant game fish traveling the sea routes of Vasco de Gama and Henry the Navigator centuries past can be the prize...the triumphant trophy from Neptune's depths.

Sportsmen from throughout the world come to this idyllic isle in pursuit of blue marlin, long tail tuna, swordfish, bluefin tuna, amberjack, Atlantic bigeye tuna, blue sharks, threshers, hammerheads and porbeagle sharks. Recently, a group of the most prestigious fishing writers and angling experts in the United States, traveled to Madeira to accept the challenge of matching their skills against these monster fish. The group included Al Ristori, well-known fishing author, CBS-radio fishing news broadcaster, as well as leading environmentalist; Barry Gibson, Associate Editor of the popular Saltwater Sportsman Magazine, and a charter fishing boat operator in Maine; Jerry Kenny, Outdoor and Fishing Editor of the New York Daily News, and a charter fishing boat captain in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey; Scott Simons, Managing Editor of The Long Island Fisherman and author of several fishing books; John DeMaio, charter fishing boat captain from Montauk, New York; and Paul Neff, television and film producer of sports and fishing presentations, also from Montauk, N.Y.

The one-week trip began just when giant blue marlin were expected to travel in these waters. Information received beforehand advised these anglers that this species were of world-record proportions—up to 1,300 lbs.—representing an opportunity of a lifetime. However, due to a raging Atlantic storm this past winter—the worst in more than fifty years that any Madeiran native could recall—these species seemed to arrive later than usual.

So, the adaptive deep-sea hunters decided to try their skills in combating bigeye tuna, another magnificent creature that is rare sport to catch on rod and reel. These fish (generally inhabiting depths in the neighborhood of 1,000') occasionally rise to the top to feed on Spanish mackerel. Seeing them boiling out of the deep blue is an astounding sight. Crashing upward and churning the aqua-velvet seas into a turmoil of white water as they pursue their feed is a captivating sight for any experienced mariner to see.

After a futile day of trolling sophisticated lures with iridescent plastic skirts from modern international reels, the angling experts—with their masterful techniques and combined experience—couldn't get even a nibble. However, all around them, Portuguese fishermen using handlines landed fish after fish. There's nothing more frustrating for a fisherman than to see fish being caught all around, but being unable to boat nary a one. Back on shore that evening, there was a skull session amongst the group. It was decided that the following day a different approach and method of fishing would have to be taken.

The fishermen—using the boats and crews from two different charter fishing operators—advised the captain of the Madeira Game Fishing Center, operator of a 40' wooden fishing cruiser, and the captain of the Madeiras Seafaris, operator of the sleek Fiberglassed 32' Trojan fishing machine, called Torpedo III, that they intended to change their angling techniques. Fishing with live Spanish mackerel, kept healthy in a live fish well on board, while every now and then tossing over the mackerel as chum, the champion sportsmen finally hooked into a giant bigeye. At that moment, Paul Neff had what he describes as "the misfortune of being near the rod when a tuna hit." Quite by accident, Neff, one of the band of Americans on the Torpedo III, suddenly found himself on the other end of a screaming 80 lb. test reel. The monster fish almost bent the rod in half as it dove to the lower depths.

"I guess I grabbed it on impulse," Neff moaned later. He fought the fish for an hour and ten minutes, before the crew on the

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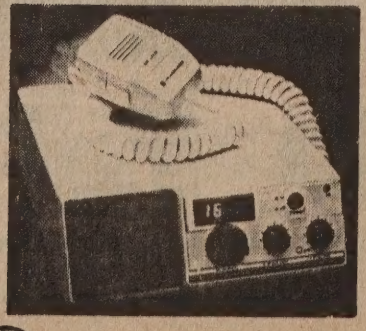

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charter could gaff the powerful creature. Every muscle in Neff's body ached in triumph, but he landed an Atlantic bigeye tuna that weighed 332 lbs.—a new European record for 80 lb. test line, and only a few pounds off of the world mark.

"There's no question that world-record fish can be caught in Madeira," Al Ristori said later that evening back at the Hotel Dom Pedro in Machico. "The fish are here...with skilled charter boat crews, and a little luck, they can be taken." "There's 50 million fishermen in the United States," Ristori added, "and plenty of them would give their eye-teeth to sink into one of these big ones."

Traveling to these waters is a simple task. A sportsman from the States can fly via TAP to Lisbon, with a connecting TAP flight to Funchal, Madeira...only ninety minutes away from mainland Portugal. In Funchal or in Machico, there are many deluxe hotels with beautiful coastal views of the great Atlantic. Accommodations for charter boats with the operators previously mentioned can be arranged by the hotel representative.

For detailed information on "TAP-happy" tours to Madeira, travel arrangements and hotel accommodations, contact your local travel agent or any TAP representative in your area.

FISHING GOES TO COLLEGE

Suffolk County Community College is offering a non-credit course this fall, entitled "Fishing for Fun and Sport," Beginners.

The course will meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning October 3 and running through November 2, 1979, for six consecutive evenings. Class will meet from 6PM to 8PM.

Since there is a limit to the number of students who can be accommodated, interested people are encouraged to register early. The **deadline** for registration is September 24.

The cost for the course is $28. It is being taught by a U.S. Coast Guard Certified Charter Boat Captain and Professor at Suffolk County Community College, Len Gregorio.

For further information and application, interested parties should call 233-5163.

Remember, the deadline is **September 24—so call today!**

SISU CHOOSES NORWALK SHOW TO INTRODUCE NEW BOAT

Sisu Boat, Inc., the Dover, New Hampshire boatbuilding company has again chosen the International In-Water Boat Show at Norwalk Cove Marina, Sept. 20-23, to introduce a new boat to the boating public.

It is the Sisu 26—a down-east, semi-displacement design which provides excellent speed combined with extremely low fuel consumption.

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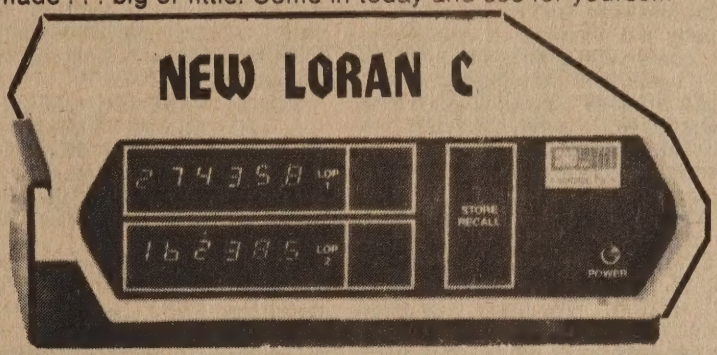

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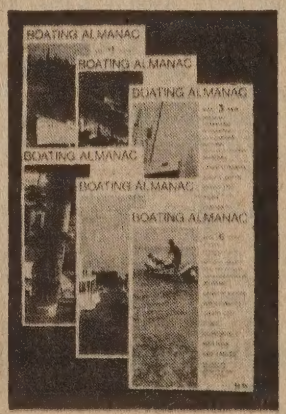

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sidered by many to be the dean of down-east lobster and fishing boat naval architects, the Sisu 26 sports a six-foot-long "hard top," the canopy which has kept working fishermen dry as long as memory serves. She is hand-laid Fiberglas with a balsa core which makes for both light weight and strength.

The fine entry and round bilge are virtually a trademark of the down-east boats, certainly of Royal Lowell's boats, and they make for both a comfortable ride and extreme seaworthiness. To ensure safety, all Sisu boats have extra layers of Fiberglas built into the stress points of the keel, stem and transom.

"About half of the people who buy our boats are working fishermen," says Martin E. Koski, President of the New Hampshire boatbuilding firm. "We know they need a sturdy boat, so we build a boat that will take them where they need to go and bring them back fast and safe. We also know that the average man who works a boat for a living can't afford to spend a great deal of his income on gas or diesel fuel—and that's where the semi-displacement hull gives them a great value."

Koski points out that it's only been in the past few years that sport fishermen and cruising boaters have come to realize what the commercial boat people have known all along: that the semi-displacement hull is not only economical, but it is sea-kindly and comfortable even in a chop.

The new Sisu is 25' 6" overall with a nice wide beam of 9' 8" and a draft of three feet. Displacement is 7,500 lbs. The cockpit is an extremely roomy 12' 6" by 9' and the cabin length is 10'. Gas or diesel power is available.

The new boat is joined at Norwalk by her little sister, the highly successful Sisu 22. The Sisu 30, introduced at Norwalk a year ago, is virtually sold out through this winter.

Two other 22s will be at the Norwalk Show, although not on display. They will be used by the show, under the sponsorship of "Cruising World" magazine as launches to bring visitors in who come by boat and drop anchor in the designated anchorage in the Norwalk Harbor. For further information on the Sisu line call Ken at 516-728-8566.

TUNA LANDINGS DATA AVAILABLE

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Market News Branch has commenced the reporting of the 1979 giant bluefin tuna catch data on its Gloucester telephone message center. This 24-hour a day service can be reached by telephoning (617) 283-1101. The tuna data are compiled from log book reports and will be updated each Friday. This is the same message center that provides the daily landings and ex-vessel prices at Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford.

The Atlantic giant bluefin tuna landings data will be published in the Boston Fishery Market News Reports (Blue sheets) each Friday. These reports are available at a $35 annual subscription fee. Subscription orders should be mailed to the NMFS, 10 Commonwealth Pier, Boston, MA 02210 with a check covering the subscription fee.

POLISH RESEARCH VESSELS TO TEST AUTOMATIC SQUID JIGGING DEVICES

Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, announced today that two Polish research vessels will be operating in the Northwest Atlantic Fishery Conservation Zone using automatic squid jigging devices. The vessels will commence operations during the first week of August in areas seaward of 12 nautical miles from the coast, excluding the Gulf of Maine.

In announcing the operations, Mr. Peterson stated that the vessels will attempt to locate commercial available concentrations of squid. The automatic jigging devices rarely used previously in the Northwest Atlantic, operate almost free of the incidental catch of other species and are operated in such a manner as to eliminate gear conflicts, formerly a serious problem when conventional bottom trawls were used.

National Marine Fisheries Service observers will remain onboard the vessels until the research cruise has been completed, which should occur in early September. Their job will be to monitor the catch of squid, their sizes and other biological phenomena associated with the operation, as well as to obtain samples for subsequent laboratory study.

New Products

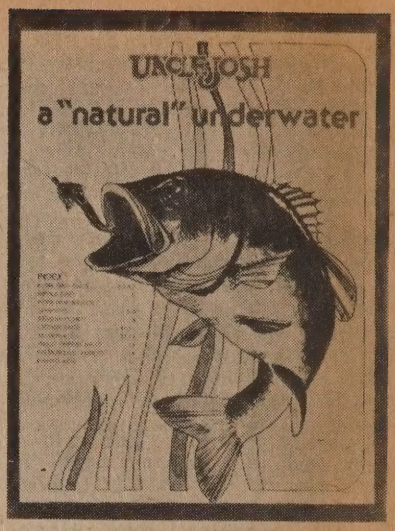
UNCLE JOSH RELEASES NEW PRODUCT CATALOG

A new line of catfishing products, an improved design for the famous Spinrite and a variety of new pork rind color combinations highlight the new Uncle Josh product catalog.

Complete information on the new line of Mr. Catfish Scent Bait products, including the new soft DIP baits, the newly formulated Dough Ball Baits and the full selection of Catfish accessory items, is provided in detail.

The famous Uncle Josh Spinrite features an important design change and a new super tough nylon coating. It is now available in 12 different color combinations.

Descriptions, packing information,



NEW and standard color choices are provided for over 34 different pork rind patterns and sizes. Similar details are included for the versatile Salmon Egg Baits.

Famous pork rind/artificial lure combinations, as well as details on the new "How To Fish Pork Rind in Fresh Water" booklet are also provided. The catalog is available immediately. For your copy, write the Uncle Josh Bait Company, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538.

BOATING

C.G.A. COURSE IN ISLIP

Registration for a Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Course will be held from 8PM to 10PM on October 2 at Brookwood Hall on Irish Lane, East Islip. The lessons provide a comprehensive, but practical study covering seamanship, aids to navigation, piloting, rules of the road, safe motorboat operation and accident prevention. Those successfully completing the course are awarded the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Basic Small Boat Seamanship Certificate by the Commander of Flotilla 13. For further information, contact Bill Cote at 567-6152, after 7.

CAPTREE POWER SQUADRON SAFE BOATING COURSE

Captree Power Squadron will again conduct their annual Safe Boating Courses this fall. Registration will be as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 19—Lindenhurst Jr. High Cafeteria, 350 So. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 3—No. Babylon Sr. High Cafeteria, Deer Park Ave. & Phelps Lane, No. Babylon, 7:30 p.m.

Safety is the name of the game in the free boating instructions offered. The proper operation of all types of boats, including the family outboard

is emphasized, and the courses are open to interested men, women, and older teens. It is not necessary to be a boat owner.

Aimed to teach the knowledge required for safe boating, these courses are intensive, hard-driving sessions conducted each week by experienced boatmen, for approximately ten weeks and will lay a basic foundation for building boating skills by further study, application, and experience.

Those who pass the final examination will be issued a certificate and should consider themselves as having attained the basic knowledge necessary to keep themselves and their boating companions alive while on the waters.

TWO BOATING COURSES ON NORTH SHORE

Old Field Point Power Squadron will offer its ten lesson Boating Course at two North Shore locations this fall.

The first class and registration is scheduled at Newfieid High School on Marshall Drive in Selden for September 18 at 8PM.

The second class will be held at the Miller Place High School, Miller Place-Coram Road, and is scheduled for October 9 at 8PM.

Ownership of a boat is not required. Both men and women over the age of 16 are invited to the ten-week course.

The course covers all phases of small boat handling and safety afloat.

Additional information can be had by calling: 751-1294 or 928-4061.

CLUB NEWS

BABYLON SCUBA BUGS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Small, intimate Scuba Club seeking a few choice members. Dives for local waters are planned almost every weekend. For information, call: Art 667-9534, or Astra 795-4038.

MANHASSET BAY S.C. TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's club will hold an open house from 3PM to 6PM on Saturday, September 22. All our neighbors are invited to come down and talk with local sportsmen about fishing, hunting, and conservation. Club members who have many years of experience fishing in the Bay, the Sound, and the Atlantic will show you lures and tackle and answer questions on: striped bass fishing, bottom fishing, bluefish rigs and techniques, making lures; surf-casting lures and rods, big game fishing, fish tagging, and flycasting demonstrations.

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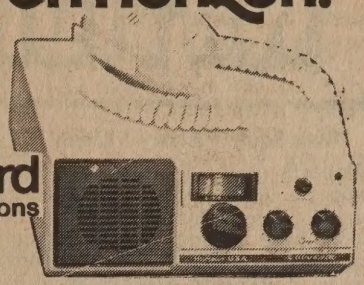

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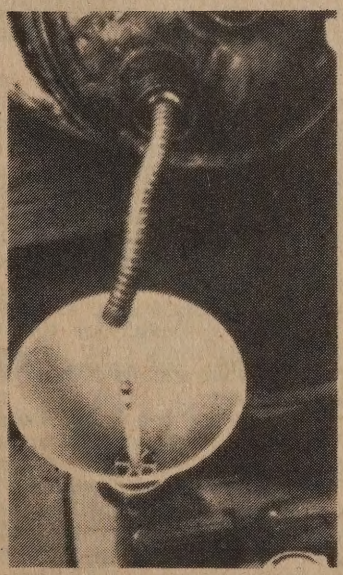

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Illex Squid Fishery "Clean"

Reports filed by U.S. observers assigned to Mexican and Spanish vessels fishing for illex squid between June 18 and July 6, indicate that this fishery is quite "clean"; that is, it is being conducted with a very minimal by-catch. In all but two cases, the vessels had a catch of illex squid that constituted at least ninety-nine per cent of the total catch; the other two vessels had ninety-eight per cent illex.

Most of the minor by-catch consisted of various crabs and a few oceanic species, such as hammerhead and blue sharks and swordfish. In a couple of cases, basking sharks got involved with the trawls. Very few bottom fish were taken—and those that were are of relatively little interest to American fishermen. Included were such species as spiny dogfish, thorny skate, goosefish (angler) and spotted hake. Among the unusual specimens taken by these trawlers were sting rays, torpedo rays, ocean sunfish, black belly rosefish, John Dory, armoured sea robin, leopard skate, snipefish, sargassum fish, cusk eel and slime eel.

Unfortunately, not all foreign fisheries can be conducted in such a "clean" fashion. That's the reason strict by-catch regulations have been devised. This problem becomes particularly acute during the fall and winter loligo squid fishery on the edge of the Continental Shelf. At that time, many of our most important inshore species are migrating offshore and used to be taken in great numbers by foreign trawlers. Now that the foreigners are faced with the loss of their directed fishery if the by-catch levels are exceeded, they've found that it is quite possible to sharply reduce the previous by-catch levels. Much of the previous sea bass, porgy and fluke catches have been eliminated by use of above-bottom trawls.

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Sport Fishing Institute Calls for Recreational Representation on Councils

On July 12, Gil Radonski presented the Sport Fishing Institute's position on equitable representation of recreational interests on the Councils before the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Radonski produced a breakdown of Council members which indicated that thirty-eight were associated with commercial fisheries, and just sixteen with recreational fisheries. Yet, Radonski pointed out, the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act provides that recreational fisheries should be judged on the same basis as commercial activities. Obviously, NMFS has no intention of providing better representation for the nation's 20,000,000 marine sport fishermen or the many businesses dependent on them. During the latest round of appointments, they further improved commercial representation while making no effort to aid recreational fishermen.

This problem applies in many Council areas, but most prominently in the Pacific. The North Pacific Council has no sport fishing representation at all, and there are only a couple of sport fishermen on the Pacific Council (California to Washington). Since NMFS has chosen to ignore the approximately 3,000,000 marine anglers in New York, you won't find it surprising that California doesn't make out too well, either. Despite the great numbers of licensed saltwater fishermen in that State, there are only two public members—and one is the Secretary-Treasurer of the union representing the distant-water tuna fishermen. The one sportsman is from northern California, which means that there is no one familiar with the completely different fisheries to be found in the southern portion of that State. The only other sportsman on the Pacific Council is a lawyer from Idaho—an inland state that was given a seat by Congress because of its dependency on salmon runs affected by Council decisions.

New England has been short of recreational representation right from the beginning. Neither of the two sportsmen on that Council will be back this year, though they have been replaced by two good men. Hal Lyman, Publisher of Salt Water Sportsman, retired and was replaced by Chris Weld, Boston Lawyer and an official of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation. Omar Alvord was dropped; but replaced by Pat Carroll of Fairfield, Connecticut, who's been very active over the years in the cause of striped bass conservation. I'm sure these two new members won't be intimidated by NMFS once they get their feet wet, but they'll still find themselves a minority of two on questions relating to sport fishing.

There seems to be little question now but that recreational interests aren't going to get equitable treatment from NMFS unless they fight for it. I don't want to imply that all Council members simply vote a "party line." That's not the case at all. Most try to be as objective as possible, and most issues don't resolve themselves into a straight sports-commercial conflict in any case. However, the lack of expertise in various areas will result in oversights. One example that I've brought up in this column before relates to the foreign shark fishery. It turned out that I was the only member of the Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee with any knowledge of the sport fishery for sharks. When NMFS initially proposed a surplus of over 300,000 metric tons in the PMP, I was able to counter their arguments and won a re-evaluation that resulted in a new surplus of little more than 1,000 metric tons—small enough to keep the foreigners out of that fishery so far. It wasn't that the other members of the Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee weren't interested—indeed, most are sportsmen; the problem was that they came from areas where sport fishing for sharks just wasn't important, and had no idea of its value to Long Island. That sort of thing comes up frequently, and can only be solved by having a good geographic balance of recreational interests within each Council.

There is no public member from New York presently sitting on the Mid-Atlantic Council who is familiar with the sport fishery of Long Island. Though they wish to be helpful, it's inevitable that matters that would be of concern to a sportsman, will slip right by them unless someone finds out about it in time to bring it to their attention. The sportsmen from other states in the region aren't familiar with Long Island fisheries—particularly the very different ones of the eastern end. NMFS doesn't regard this as a problem, but as one who served for three years, I can assure you that it is. New York anglers should start gearing up now to win back the seat taken from the State this year and see to it that it goes to someone familiar with the fisheries enjoyed by some 3,000,000 New Yorkers.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST HANDLINE JIGS EVER USED TO CATCH CODFISH. IT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE DEEP SEA FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND ☐ PORTUGAL ☐ NORWAY ☐

(2) THE LARGEST BLUE CLAW CRAB ON RECORD CAME FROM CHESAPEAKE BAY. FROM SPIKE TO SPIKE IT MEASURED 7½ IN. ☐ 9½ IN. ☐ 11½ IN. ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) WHY HAS THE CATFISH BECOME SO VALUABLE IN ANATOMICAL RESEARCH ON HUMAN BEINGS AND ANIMALS ?

(4) FISH NEVER SLEEP, ONLY REST, AND ARE ALWAYS SLIGHTLY AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THEM. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

CHANNEL CATFISH

KINGFISH AT EASE.

(5) THIS BAYMAN IS RAKING UP A MOSSY FORM OF SEAWEED TO BECOME A FOOD INGREDIENT CALLED "CARRAGEENAN." IT IS USED TO STABILIZE CONDENSED MILK ☐ TOOTHPASTE ☐ MEDICINAL TABLETS ☐

(6) WHAT BECOMES OF MOST OF THE LARGE TROPHY SHARKS CAUGHT BY SPORT ANGLERS FISHING IN THOSE BIG CLUB TOURNAMENTS ?

1 - PORTUGAL. 2 - 9½ INCHES ACROSS. 3 - IT HAS ONE OF NATURE'S MOST ADVANCED SENSES OF TASTE. 4 - TRUE. 5 - ALL THREE. 6 - UNFORTUNATELY MANY SPORT ANGLERS TAKE ONLY THE TEETH AND LEAVE THE CARCASS TO BE TOWED BACK TO SEA OR BURIED IN A DUMP BY A BULLDOZER.

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERY COUNCIL—WHAT HAPPENED?

THE WAY I SEE IT—OBVIOUS-BIASED! I wouldn't want anyone to think that this is sour grapes, since I have kept very quiet for three years, except on those occasions when I have praised the Council's work. No, it isn't sour grapes, since my interest in the Council was never personal gain but instead a desire to serve my country. I think our readers have a right to the information and then make up their own minds. By now, you may be sick of hearing about it since Al Ristori and Scott have already swung at the pitch, but I think it may deserve one more telling!

GET THE RECORD STRAIGHT! First, I want to establish that I offer no criticism of Barbara Stevenson of Delaware who was selected to sit on the Council. In fact, I worked with Barbara on the squid and butterfish sub-panel, of which I was the **chairman.** That's an important point that I'll come back to later. Ms. Stevenson is a charming, bright, knowledgeable, and concerned person. If anyone had asked me, I would have definitely given her my vote to sit on the Council the next time that there was an opening from Delaware! That's a second very important point that I'll come back to in a little while. Okay, the record is straight!

A LITTLE HISTORY, PLEASE! I have been nominated by Governor Carey every year to sit on the Council: every year since the beginning of the 200-Mile legislation. The first year, we were incorrectly led to believe that sport fishermen were assured good representation on the Councils and I was almost guaranteed to get a seat. Therefore, rather than make waves and begin to do a little politicking, we sat back and allowed the wheels of government to grind on. Their grinding found Dr. McHugh, Mr. Pell, and Ms. Goell. I don't like to be critical of people who were selected instead of me, and I don't object to either Dr. McHugh or Mr. Pell, but Ms. Goell's appointment was so obviously a political "hack job," that my face winces. Based upon her credentials, she should never have even been nominated. However, a friend of Judith Hope's (Governor Carey's top aide), she was nominated and selected.

LEARNED OUR LESSON! When Mr. Pell's and Ms. Goell's seats became vacant, I was again nominated and so was Scott Simons. Well, we sought out and received tremendous support from fishermen and politicians. Many letters were sent on our behalf to Governor Carey and to the Secretary of Commerce. We were told that people in Washington were reluctant to make changes on the Councils because everything was working so smoothly.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES! Well, this year the Department of Commerce had no such desire the keep the Councils intact. They began to swing the ax to rid themselves of "troublemakers" who were interfering with what the National Marine Fisheries Service people wanted to do. A true bureaucratic group to the death, the National Marine Fishery Service wants things to stay as they are, wants the plans for species written the way they want them, and wants to consider only those species they deem important. The NMFS seems to deem only commercial species important—at least that's the way it seems to me, considering that we had to fight like hell to have a bluefish plan drafted even after a surf clam and squid plan were on the books.

THIS YEAR, FEW WERE CALLED. In the beginning of the appointments and selection game in 1976, the Governor prepared a very long list of nominees according to categories: commercial, scientific, and recreational. In spite of the fact that I am a marine biologist, I was always listed as a sport fisherman. The Governor had my credentials and, therefore, I should have been listed in two columns to show the depth of my training and experiences. This year, that didn't happen. This year the Governor made only three nominations: Dr. McHugh, Scott Simons, and myself. What has become of Dr. McHugh is not completely clear—whether Dr. McHugh and NMFS became disenchanted, or Dr. McHugh's retirement was due to health and longevity. It isn't important to this story anyway. What is important is that Dr. McHugh, along with his many years of training and experience in fisheries research, along with his sound work on the Council, has been lost. This is a pity. So, that leaves Scott and I as choices for the Department of Commerce—right? Wrong!! In a clear move to avoid us "troublemakers," the seat was taken away from the State of New York and given to Delaware! I hope that Governor Carey doesn't roll over and play dead on this one. They have literally slapped the Governor of the State of New York in the face. It is an insult that is aimed at every citizen of this State and not just at the Governor!

IT IS A SLAP IN THE FACE TO ME, TOO. I have served as Chairman of one of their sub-panels when they requested it because NMFS and the Council indicated they needed my experience on the sub-panel. The work was free of charge and they paid my expenses. True, they requested Ms. Stevensons's help, too; but I was the sub-panel's chairman, not Ms. Stevenson. I have written them letters, sending information they have requested; I have attended public hearings to help out at my personal expense; I have researched items for them, again at my personal expense. So, what a fantastic contradiction to imply via the selection that I am not good enough to serve on the Council. Where I come from you don't extend one hand palm-up and slap the guy's face with the other! So, they select a representative from Delaware which has only 4.9% of the recreational fishermen that New York has, so that now little, tiny Delaware which boasts little of any kind of fishing when compared to States like New York and Massachusetts, has as many members to the Council as New York.

WORKS FOR THAT RABBLE-ROUSING LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN. Yeah, we're real "troublemakers" all right! How do we make trouble you ask? Well, to begin with, we tell our readers the truth; we do not sweep truth under the rug. Second, I've been a "troublemaker" in accusing the NMFS of using outmoded techniques of study and sampling. I guess my favorite example was when they towed a trawl net out on the edge of the Shelf during the winter, in an gather and since they came up with a full net, they pronounced the stocks of the species in good shape. Now if you'll recall, whiting (or silver hake) were making a good comeback after several years that could be described as somewhat less than abundant. We argued that a much better way to get an idea of the size of the whiting stock would be to sample in areas where they are known to go when the stocks are large enough so that competitive pressure forces the whiting inshore where shallow water commercial, and hook and line fishermen can catch them. Sampling where they cluster doesn't tell you much. Well, as we now know, the build-up of whiting inshore reached a premature peak and then began to decline. In my opinion, this was largely because the harvest limits were too high.

THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE BACK! That has to be the bluefish hearings. I think that those of you who were present at the hearings got the message pretty clearly that

NMFS did not want a bluefish plan. The "troublemaking" Long Island Fisherman, along with our sister publications in New Jersey and New England, were responsible for large turnouts at all meetings and the fishermen made it clear that they wanted a management plan for bluefish. And we got one, too, but not without provoking the wrath of the NMFS. This is pretty narrow thinking. NMFS, like any other government bureau or agency, is supposed to be responsive to the citizens of the United States, instead of to itself. Too often the vagaries and complexities of any bureaucratic agency tends to promote the idea that that agency be responsive only to itself. In my opinion that is a disastrous consequence! Something has been forgotten here by NMFS. We're all on the same side—or at least we should be! However, family members should have the right of expression. It's what keeps the family vital and strong. If we stifle the loyal opposition, then we strangle the family.

THEY FIGURED WRONG! Sometimes people assume "guilt by association" and sometimes the assumption is wrong. I guess NMFS and the big-wigs at the Department of Commerce figured that Doc Muller was a troublemaker because I'm an editor of this publication and because this publication was responsible for the turnout at the bluefish hearings, and because Al Ristori, who was very vocal in support of sport fishermen's rights, is Conservation Editor of this publication. Put it all together: all three are editors of The Long Island Fisherman, all three are staunch supporters of the rights of sport fishermen, all three have been critical of NMFS, and all three are "guilty." Where they figured wrong is that all three men care about our fish and the 200-Mile limit and by attempting to extinguish the flame of our desires and intentions, they have attempted to stifle a lot of potential hard and meaningful work.

THE SCORE? Well, we've lost Al Ristori, Dr. McHugh; failed to place either Scott or myself on the Council; have seen yet another commercially-oriented person seated on the Council, and may well see, as Al Ristori has carefully pointed out in his column, the beginnings of the end of viable Councils. If this is all true, then the 200-Mile Limit will become a joke, its dreams will never be realized, we will struggle through many more summers with fewer and fewer fish; the commercial industry will expand and perhaps try to force us out of the inshore waters, and saltwater sport fishing as we know it may come to an end.

READY TO FIGHT! I'm always ready to fight for something I feel strongly about. All of you don't always agree with all of my opinions, but that's horse racing. I'll tell you one thing, though, I don't intend to let this sport die and the United States Government bureaucracy notwithstanding, we still have a few tricks up our sleeves here at The Fisherman that may still put them on their proverbial butts. We anxiousaly await the reaction of Governor Carey to being slapped in the face and we anxiously await the awakening of America's biggest sleeping giant: the American saltwater recreational fisherman!

LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK! If you have any opinions on this column or the situation in general, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Just write to me, c/o The Long Island Fisherman, Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
TABLE LURES
with Helen Groll

BEAUTIFUL BLUE CLAWS

Our family has enjoyed blue claw crabs, served in many different ways for as many years as I care to remember. When we lived in "The Big Apple," we would take an early morning visit to the Fulton Fish Market and pick up a bushel basket of the tasty critters, then invite a bunch of friends over for a real crab feast. Sometimes we would travel to Chinatown for blue claws, Oriental style, in one of the area's fine restaurants. When the mood for something different was the order of the day, we would stroll down to "Little Italy" for platters of steaming spaghetti with crab sauce.

When we moved to Brooklyn, one of the best things was that with the water right near by, we could occasionally indulge in a relaxing morning or evening of swinging crab traps into the water and then come home with some of the sea-fresh bounty. In times of scarcity though, the local fish markets have always provided the tasty crustaceans for our table.

To the uninitiated, dealing with blue claws may pose a problem: how to handle them without getting nipped and cooking and cleaning them. Some people are not even sure which parts of the little beasts are edible and which are not!

The easiest way to handle a nippy crab is with a pair of tongs. Lacking tongs, try to get the crab to grab onto a dish towel or a rag and then quickly lift him into the sink or pot. Don't put live crabs into fresh water for any longer than thirty minutes, since this will kill them. If you must store them overnight, put them in a paper bag or a burlap sack, drape the bag with damp paper towels and store it in the refrigerator. One-half hour before you're ready to start cooking, soak them in a bucket of water or the kitchen sink. This will allow them to cast off some of their mud.

Some people like to boil crabs and though this method certainly works, we have found that steamed crabs taste better and are just as easy to prepare. For two dozen lively blue claws, mix up the following in a good sized kettle that has a tightly fitting lid: 1/2 cup crab boil (a commercial spice mixture) or 1 tsp. pickling spice, 1/4 cup Kosher salt, 1 cup white vinegar, and 1 cup water or white wine. Put a rack in the pot and bring the mixture to a boil. Add the crabs and then cover the pot and steam over a medium flame for 25 to 30 minutes. By the way, it makes things a lot easier for the crabs and yourself (especially if you're tender-hearted like me) to first drop the crabs into a sinkful of very hot water. This will partially anethesize them, which makes them easier to handle and you can also scrub them briefly with a vegetable brush. If you don't do this, the crabs will tend to scramble woefully in the steamer until they "pass out."

Crabs done this way are best served on a newspaper-covered table with nothing more than a cruet of vinegar, some lemon wedges, salt and pepper, and perhaps some melted butter. Provide your guests with plenty of napkins and nut-crackers and lobster forks. Bring on the ice cold beer and enjoy! You might want to follow this up with a tossed salad and then a light dessert. Serve at least six crabs per person: more for hearty eaters.

Now, if you want cooked, flaked crab for those dishes that require it, you can use the same method, but use plain salted water in the bottom of the pot. Allow the crabs to cool off and then pick the meat of the shells. To clean a crab for eating at the table, or to extract the meat for any dish you have in mind, follow these simple steps: place the crab on its back and remove the tail flap. Crack the shell in half. The head of the crab can be removed by pressing your thumbs down on the mouth until it breaks away. Extract the meat and coral or roe from the shell with a fork or lobster pick, making sure to avoid the feathery gills (dead man's fingers) and bits of cartilage. Crack the claws and remove the claw meat with the aid of the lobster pick. You can follow the same procedure to dissect crabs before the final cooking if you boil them in a large amount of water for two minutes. If you want to partially clean the crabs before serving them, follow the directions below for cleaning soft-shell crabs. This will make the job of eating "at the table" a lot neater and helps if your diners have never tackle a blue claw before. Cooked or partially cooked crab meat that you plan to use in a recipe is quite perishable; so keep it in the refrigerator and plan to use it within twenty-four hours.

If you plan to serve stuffed crabs, you must cook them first and then remove the flesh from the shells. If you're going to serve it in the shells, first boil the scrubbed shells for twenty minutes in a generous amount of water to which you have added a teaspoon of baking soda. Rinse them well and dry them before stuffing.

When making a dish that calls for cooked crab meat, remember this rule of thumb: one 5-oz. crab will yield about 1½ oz. of cooked meat and at least 1/4 lb. of cooked meat should be allowed for each portion. This sure makes a lot of picking for the cook and if you don't have the patience, perhaps your best bet is to buy frozen or canned crab meat. Don't expect the same taste though!

Summer is the peak season for another delicacy: the softshell crab. These are blue claws that are shedding and have not hardened their new shells yet. If you luck into any of these, you must clean them first; then you can cook them and eat them—shell and all. To clean a softshell before cooking, first immerse them briefly in very hot water to stun them. Then place the crab, face down, on a board; make an incision just in back of the eyes and cut out the face. Lift the tapering points on each side of the back shell to remove the sandbag and gills and then turn the crab over on its back and remove the small, pointed "apron" at the lower part of the shell with the point of a knife. The crab is now ready to be cooked and when done, can be eaten with a knife and fork, thus making for a very neat and tasty presentation.

It's worthwhile for the crab-fancier to know the difference between a male and female blue claw, since the females harbor the tasty roe. This roe is a vital ingredient in the famous "She Crab Soup." If you're looking for females to make this dish, check the "aprons" on the underside of the crabs. The female's is wide and the male's is long and narrow.

She Crab Soup

This is best made when you have many crabs on hand, so you can pick out the females and leave the males for another dish.

Start with 1 lb. of flaked, cooked crab and the roe. Melt 1/2 stick of butter in the top part of a double boiler, then stir in one medium sized onion that you have peeled and minced. Allow the onion to soften in the butter until golden; then add the crab meat and roe. Beat the following together in a bowl: 2 egg yolks, a dash of paprika, dash of red pepper, 1/2 tsp. Worchestershire Sauce and 1 tsp. of minced parsley. Add 2 cups of half and half to the crab meat in the pan and allow it to get warm. Slowly blend the egg mixture into the soup, stirring all the while. When the soup thickens, lower the heat and simmer very slowly for 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper before serving with oyster crackers.

Crab Sauce for Pasta

This is one of the better ways to use canned crab, but if you make the

sauce with fresh crab meat it will taste twice as good.

Brown a clove of peeled garlic in 3 tablespoons of olive oil and then add 3 cups of canned tomatoes. Mash the tomatoes up and simmer until creamy and smooth. Add 1 finely chopped green pepper and season to taste with salt, pepper, oregano and red pepper flakes. Add one large can of crab meat or 1 cup or more of flaked, cooked crab. Simmer for two minutes and serve over your favorite pasta.

Sauteed Softshell Crabs and Deep-Fried Softshell Crabs

The basic preparation for both types is the same, only the cooking method differs. Sauteed softshells are fried in butter over a moderate flame until golden. Deep-fried softshells are done in several inches of hot oil in a kettle or deep fryer. Deep-fried, the crabs are crunchy; but the sauteed crabs remain juicier. Try both ways and see which you like better. To prepare the crabs for frying, clean them (see above) and then drop them into boiling water until they just turn pink. Drain them and pat them dry with paper toweling. Salt them lightly and then dip them in beaten egg. Now roll them in one of the following: seasoned flour, seasoned bread crumbs (the Italian type are good) or seasoned corn meal. Fry as preferred and serve the crabs with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

Devilishly Good Stuffed Crab

This would make an elegant, but easy, first course for a fancy dinner. You can prepare the crabs ahead of time and keep them in the fridge, to be baked just before serving.

To serve six people, start out with 1½ cups cooked crab meat and 1 can of drained mushroom pieces. Soak 2 cups of dry bread crumbs in 1 cup of milk and then combine this with the crab and mushrooms. Season this mixture with 1 tsp. salt, 1/4 dried mustard, a pinch of cayenne pepper and a dash of Tabasco Sauce. Pile the mixture into clean crab shells and top with a fine sprinkling of more crumbs. Dot the top of each stuffed crab with a generous amount of butter and bake them in a 450° oven for ten minutes. They should be golden when done. Serve with a lemon wedge on the side.

My Own Favorite Crab Cocktail

If you haven't enough crab meat on hand to serve as a main course, try making this as a tasty prelude to dinner.

Allow about 1/2 cup of crab meat per serving. It should be cooked, flaked and then laid in a lettuce cup and chilled. When ready to serve, top the cocktails with this sauce. Combine the following in a jar with a lid: 1 cup mayonnaise, 1/4 cup heavy cream, 1/4 cup ketchup, 1 tsp. Worchestershire Sauce, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 tablespoon minced capers, 1/4 cup minced ripe olives and 1 tablespoon sweet pickle relish. Season to taste with salt and pepper and shake the jar until the sauce is well blended. Chill before serving.

Chinese Steamed Blue Claws

Crabs and crab meat are an important item on the Chinese menu and Orientals have many tasty ways of preparing them. This is a simple dish to prepare, but the flavor is special.

Start by soaking the crabs in cold water for thirty minutes, then plunge them into some very hot water to immobilize them. In a large kettle, combine the following: 2 cups of water, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 cup lemon juice, 3 cloves of crushed garlic and 2 slices ginger (fresh only). This amount will be enough for boiling 6 large crabs, so if you're making more, increase the ingredients accordingly. Bring this mixture to a boil and simmer it for 15 minutes, then drop in the crabs and bring back to a boil. Lower the heat to medium and simmer for 10 minutes. Drain the crabs and chill them. You may serve them as is, for people to clean at the table or you can partially clean them first (see directions above). Serve them with this sauce. Combine 1/2 cup of soy sauce with 1/2 cup vinegar, 1/2 cup corn oil, 2 finely minced cloves of garlic, a dash of Tabasco and a pinch or more of sugar. Shake this sauce up in a jar and chill it before serving.

Chinese Batter Fried Softshell Crabs

Once again we turn to the East for a different way with blue claws. Serve these crispy crabs with the sauce above, tartar sauce or just simple wedges of lemon.

Clean the softshells (see above) and then drop them in boiling water until they just turn pink. Rinse them in cold water and then pat them dry. Have a large quantity of oil ready in a kettle or deep fryer. Make a batter by placing 1½ cups of flour in a mixing bowl with 1 tablespoon baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt. Add 1/2 cup of vegetable oil, a bit at a time until the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Then stir in 1 cup of water or flat beer. The batter should have the consistency of pancake batter. Heat your oil to 350° and then dip the crabs in the batter, letting the excess drip off. Gently drop them into the hot oil and stand back—they will spatter! When they turn golden, remove them with tongs and allow them to drain on paper toweling before serving. A good point to remember in this recipe is to make sure you dry the crabs very carefully before dipping them or the batter will not stick to them and coat them as it should.

Easy Scalloped Crab

This is the perfect dish to make when you're in a hurry if you have some canned crab on hand. If you use fresh, it will taste even better.

Combine the following in a buttered casserole dish: 1 can of condensed cream of mushroom soup, 1 cup of flaked, cooked crab meat, 2 tablespoons chopped green pepper, 1 tablespoon chopped onion, 2 tsps. lemon juice, 1 tsp. Worchestershire sauce, 1/2 tsp. of mustard and black pepper to taste. Top this with 2 tablespoons of buttered bread crumbs and 1 tablespoon of grated Parmesan cheese. Dot the top of the casserole with butter and bake it in a preheated 350° oven for twenty minutes.

Crab Meat in "Shells"

We like to serve these as appetizers at buffets or patio parties. For the "shells" use ripe avocado halves or scooped out tomatoes. Combine flaked, cooked crab with enough mayonnaise to moisten and season it. Stir in some chopped capers and season to taste with salt and pepper. Pile the salad into the "shells" and chill before serving. *IF using avocados, sprinkle them with lemon juice to prevent the flesh from darkening.

Crab on Toast or Crab Rarebit

This is another dish that will stretch a modest amount of crab into several servings. It makes a nice lunch or serve it, with a green salad, for supper. Pour one quart of light beer or ale into a saucepan and add 1 minced onion, 3 tablespoons chopped parsley, 1 bay leaf, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Simmer this mixture for 15 minutes, then strain it and return it to the pan, putting aside 1/2 cup of it to cool off. Cream 1/2 stick of butter until soft and blend 2 tablespoons flour into the cooled liquid until very smooth. Add the butter to the flour mixture until well combined and then stir this into the liquid in the pan. Bring to a gentle boil, stirring all the while and simmer until thickened. If the mixture has gotten lumpy, either strain it, or put it in the blender at high speed until smooth. Add 1 lb. of crab meat to the sauce and serve, piping hot, over buttered toast.

Crab Cakes Maryland

Serve these patties with ketchup or tartar sauce and make plenty of 'em, 'cause they're really good!

Combine 1 lb. of flaked, cooked crab with 4 tablespoons melted butter, 1 small can of drained, chopped mushrooms and salt and pepper to taste. Add about one beaten egg. The amount you use will depend on the size of the eggs. The mixture should be firm enough to shape, but not too dry. Beat another egg with 2 tsps. water and have ready 1 cup of seasoned cracker crumbs. Dip the patties in the egg and then in the crumbs. Heat 2 cups of oil in a deep fryer to 400°. Fry the patties for about three minutes, then drain on paper toweling and serve piping hot.

Surf Side with John Fritz

A COVE CALLED TURTLE

The two companions set a brisk pace from the parking lot down the winding path leading to Scott's. Expectations were at a peak, as conditions were perfect for fishing the "Light" on this early October evening. The last two hours of the flood tide, coupled with a brisk northeast wind was the setting by which dreams are fulfilled. The excited chatter diminished considerably upon approaching the buggy area nestled between the bluffs of the Lighthouse and Scott's, for vehicles were crammed into every conceivable space. Neither friend dared to voice the thought uppermost in his mind at the moment. Upon reaching the start of the boulders, placed by man in a puny attempt to ward off Nature's fury, their worst fears were realized. Surfmen were lined elbow-to-elbow, perched on every rock affording a foothold and spilling over into the pocket next to Scott's. It left no choice but to continue on, hoping for a place to fish further around the bend on the right side of the bluff. The sight of several arched rods and numerous quivering fish lying amongst the rocks added to their anxiety. Further and further the pair progressed, stumbling over the jumbled rocks in their haste to find a spot, until they were ultimately treading on sand once again, the eastern edge of what is commonly referred to as Turtle Cove. Left with no alternative, the discouraged anglers chose places among the boulders where the incoming current starts its sweep through the maze of obstructions littering the oceanfront in this area.

The outcome of this tale will be left for the readers to supply; but the point I would like to get across is that many surfmen are forced to fish the Cove instead of making this cove one of the preferred fishing areas of Montauk. Turtle Cove does not get the publicity of the more famous Montauk locations, which pleases most of the anglers who fish this area regularly, away from the crowds and not on the itinerary of most tourist surfmen.

The Cove, huddled under the lee of the western edge of the Lighthouse bluff, has probably been photographed more than any one section of Long Island shore line. The famous picture of the Montauk Light, taken from the bluffs of the Fort, has been reproduced countless times to illustrate the beauty and majesty of this easternmost tip of Long Island.

Turtle Cove is the first in a series of relatively unobstructed pockets formed in the heavily bouldered terrain found under the South Side bluffs between the Light and Ditch Plains. These pockets usually contain water to a greater depth than the adjacent shelves which, on many occasions, will attract hordes of bait and consequently, the predator game fish. In contrast to the rock-strewn shelves where an angler can wade out and position himself on a distant boulder, a fishermen working Turtle Cove must fish from the water's edge unless he wishes to try his luck on the west side of the Cove where boulders suitable as fishing platforms are to be found. To any angler unfamiliar with Montauk, this fishing from the water's edge might seem child's play, but when there is any degree of surf working—which is the case most often at the Point—the wash along this beach is not meant for children. The force with which the surf stirs grapefruit-sized rocks to crash against the ankles of unwary anglers is a condition to contend with.

In a high surf, heavy tackle should be used to overcome the necessity of standing back from the water and to have sufficient backbone to pull a hooked fish from the surging water. Most anglers prefer eleven or thirteen foot sticks equipped with reels similar to the Crack 300's, spooled with fifteen or twenty pound test Ande line. The favored daylight plugs when long casts are required to reach fish lying off the beach are the 2¼ or 3¼ oz. Polaris and the 2¾ oz. Pencil Poppers. The heavier three and four ounce striper Swipers or homemade poppers weighted to attain maximum casting efficiency are also used, especially when the surface of the water is choppy. When this condition exists, it is often beneficial to skid the plug along the surface in a long drag rather than maintaining a fast retrieve with the popping action most often associated with plugs of this type. Shiny tins of all descriptions can be used, but care must be taken to prevent them from sinking too deep and becoming snagged in the rock and kelp formations which cover this area.

Even though bottle plugs and darters are considered to be lures used after sunset, I have witnessed several occasions where these lures have produced in the daylight. The strong currents and heavy surf frequently encountered in Turtle Cove are ideal for lures of this type.

Nighttime plugs in heavy water are mostly restricted to darters and bottle plugs, but on bright moonlit nights, slowly worked poppers will also take fish. Anglers fishing from the rocks or those fortunate enough to find a quiet surf often do well using Atom or Danny swimmers, or the seven inch versions of the Rebel or RedFin floaters. Use of the Rebel Windcheater or weighted RedFins will increase an angler's range, with the latter plugs offering a lure which will work to a greater depth below the surface. By the term weighted RedFin, I mean floaters to which a specified amount of water or lead has been added to cause the plug to swim at a determined depth and not the sinking RedFins which are spurned by most regular surfmen.

Surfmen who fish Turtle Cove on a regular basis prefer to work the left side of the cove where the rocks protecting the Lighthouse begin. Baitfish lying in the deeper and, therefore, less turbulent waters of the cove are often caught in the sweep of the incoming tide and carried towards the shelf where the more powerful game fish await their prey. In order to simulate this natural process, knowledgeable anglers will position their casts so that at the start of their retrieve the lure is working over the deeper waters of the cove, but is then allowed to swing either along the edge of the rocks or well onto the ledge itself.

A large fish hooked when fishing in this manner should be worked hard to counteract its tendency to run to the left with the sweep of the current. Chasing a fish down this stretch of beach is a rather difficult task.

Since the number of surfmen which can fish this corner of the cove is limited, a late-arriving angler could conceivably find himself shut out even though Turtle Cove is usually deserted. If this is the case and the center of the cove fails to yield fish, smart surfmen will proceed west towards Browns in an attempt to locate feeding game fish among the rocks prevalent in this area.

The flooding tide is the preferred period to fish Turtle Cove, for the ebb rip is located too far off the Point to be of benefit to the surfcaster. On some occasions, though, a strong easterly blow will create a rough surf while pushing this rip closer to the beach whereby the harried baitfish will tend to seek respite in the comparative safety of the cove. It is during times such as this when schools of game fish corral the bait in the cove that blitz-type fishing can be enjoyed without the attending crowds most often associated with the more popular areas "Up Front."

Later in the season when blustery northerly winds numb the fingers and make fishing on the exposed side of the Point impossible, the Cove and the right side of the Lighthouse bluff can be worked in comfort out of the biting blasts of the weather.

Striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish are the major species encountered when fishing from the surf in this area, but when the storms of September cool the water, the summer species—such as bonito and albacore—are often found chasing bait within casting distance of the Cove.

Even though most anglers who fish Turtle Cove do

so using artificials, the bait fisherman is not neglected. Sandworms used on a fish finder rig with a cork to keep the bait off the bottom have taken trophy sized bass from here in the past. June seems to be the most productive month for this activity, but patient bottom fishermen working the summer tides after sunset should be rewarded with bragging sized stripers. In contrast to plug fishermen who prefer the side of the Cove adjacent to the Lighthouse, anglers slinging bait favor the opposite shore. The most favored location is to the right side of the large rock embedded in the sand just above the high water line.

Anglers intent on trying their luck fishing bottom should be prepared to lose a few rigs. Even though the bottom to the right of this particular rock is less cluttered with rocks and kelp than the surrounding areas, snags will occur. One method used to reduce snagging is to substitute pencil sinkers for the pyramid type normally associated with the use of the fish finder rig. These sinkers are often difficult to purchase in the tackle shops further west, but Kronuch's Tackle Store in Montauk carries assorted weights of such sinkers, for they are used more extensively at the Point than other areas of Long Island.

Several sandworms impaled through the head for approximately half an inch and allowed to dangle in the current is the method used most successfully. When fishing with bait at any time, it is foolish to skimp in the amount offered. If the effort of a long journey is undertaken, an angler should do his best to ensure a successful trip. Because marine worms are not obtainable in Montauk, unless they are personally dug an ample supply should be brought from the western Island. A flat of worms, kept on ice in a cooler, is sufficient for a pair of anglers over a period of a few days. There always is the possibility of having bait leftover, but if, on the other hand, the fish are feeding voraciously a short supply of worms will be difficult to replenish.

Aside from taking striped bass from the Cove, blackfish can also be caught here during the appropriate months by those anglers interested in such fishing.

Many surfmen are turned off to Montauk by the difficult terrain and the crowded conditions usually encountered when the surf is active. It should be kept in mind that Montauk offers such a wide variety of excellent fishing opportunities that a piece of beach to call one's own can often be found. This will not be just a stretch of sand or rocks with little to offer but solitude, but rather a section of shore line facing probably the most fruitful waters to be found on Long Island.

★★★

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

GETTING READY FOR FLOUNDER

With fall waiting in the wings, I'm sure pleasant thoughts anticipating the coming flounder season have already entered the minds of more than one sinker bouncer. But unless these fellows are fortunate enough to live in the vicinity of Reynold's Channel, especially the Island Park, Long Beach area, there isn't much to be gained by rushing the season at this time. And even should this be done, this early-rush-the-season trip could turn into a disappointing catch-as-catch-can deal. Success in this excellent fishing area often depends upon where the fishing is done. Therefore, when everything is taken into consideration, I've found that, in the long run, it is best for the average fisherman to wait a bit longer; at least until the end of the month (and perhaps a little beyond) when those water temperatures so necessary for successful flounder fishing are more suitable. Right now, you will find the water still warm in sheltered bays, and creeks. But this need not overly concern you. It is those important ocean water temperatures which trigger that return migration of hordes of flounder just biding their time awaiting this subtle signal. When that happens, flounder will invade the inshore areas. Are you prepared to greet them? I hope so; for many times I've found the fall first-run action is best. This is because by October's end, the fish will have already spread throughout the flats and deeper areas. Experienced fishermen know that when this happens, it then requires more effort and finesse on their part to be successful. Therefore, now is the time to get ready.

For those who have gone flounder fishing, let me say that there is no need to continue reading. This article isn't necessary for experienced fishermen and I'm sure these fellows will find little here they don't already know. But if you are a newcomer to our sport and expect to put a few flatties in your bucket this fall, read on and I'll help you do that.

First of all—and of most importance—don't hold to the idea that flounder are easy marks for the baited hook. They're not. Yes, I know you've watched fishermen drop a line alongside the boat, or make flawless casts from shore, and come up with flounder. It looks extremely easy—and therein lies the baited trap. It isn't all that simple...it just appears to be.

Before you, as a beginner, can expect to catch those flatties with any assurance of success, you've got to know exactly what to do—before you wet a line. I don't mean by this that with only a few basics going for you, you won't catch fish. Anyone can place a sinker on a line, bait up the proper hook with a piece of sand or bloodworm, lower that rig in flounder-producing areas, and expect to catch a fish or two—but that is likely to be all they'll catch: one or two fish. If they're lucky, that is.

I never fail to be saddened when I watch hopeful anglers approach flounder fishing with absolutely no idea of what comes next. Indeed, many don't even know what comes first. This is nothing to be ashamed of and I don't blame them for their ignorance. The shame must be shared by fellow anglers who, with or without malice aforethought, tell these innocents how easy it is, and by others who gloss over the important details and seem intent only on proving their ability as fishermen.

Let me say right now that this article is not going to tell you how to catch flounder—we'll get into that next week. But this article will tell you how to get ready in order for you to get your share. and if you are prepared, that's half the game.

First of all, look to your rigging. If knowledge is lacking in this area, you will get nowhere. It's as simple as that. And with that in mind, I suppose it is asinine of me to continuously repeat that flounder are bottom feeders and they must be rigged for accordingly. It seems that everyone knows that—or do they? But after what I witnessed one chilly morning in late September last year, I once again have my doubts about that.

I'm going to tell you what happened, but don't laugh when you read on. What I witnessed only bears out what I mentioned before about the sad state of affairs that exists in the bottom fishing game.

About eight o'clock on this particular morning, I was fishing from the Peconic Bay jetty north of Shinnecock Canal, doing my best to entice a few reluctant flounder into my bucket. I wasn't doing too well. I consoled myself with the fact that the season was only starting and perhaps I should be content with the medium-sized flounder I did have. But as hope springs eternally from the fisherman's breast, I kept at it.

There was one lone fisherman about fifty feet from me. He was snapper fishing with a bamboo pole and bobber and so far I hadn't noticed him having better luck. Oh, well, that's the way flounder fishing goes sometimes. I tried awhile longer and perhaps an hour later, I gave it up as a lost cause. But first I'd check how that snapper fisherman was doing. The fact that I didn't see him land a fish meant nothing. I wasn't paying that much attention.

I rock-hopped over to him and asked the eternal question: "How're you doing?"

"Not a damn thing," was the reply.

"No snappers?" I asked, surprised at his answer. I had noticed some big snappers chasing bait throughout the morning. In fact, I had caught two while reeling in to check the clam bait I had used.

"Snappers! Who's snapper fishing! I'm flounder fishing."

As this guy was pretty much upset about his flounder fishing results, I figured discretion at this time was the better part of valor. So I did the next best thing: I wished him luck and left. There was no way I was going to make suggestions to that infuriated fisherman.

Now, I'm not about to say this fellow would have caught flounder if he had been rigged correctly; but certainly his chances would have been vastly improved even if he had simply dispensed with the bobber and allowed his bait to reach bottom. This particular jetty is one spot where this is easily accomplished and I've often seen kids catch flounder from here with this method.

And so it goes in the fishing game.

There are many fellows who are willing to give the sport a try, but who get off on the wrong foot and soon become discouraged. Okay, you say, that might very well be, but don't you think that such fellows should check with other fishermen before venturing forth? Of course; but the fact remains that many don't out of a false sense of insecurity—or whatever. Which, of course, as far as the fishing game goes, is foolishness indeed.

All right, then, with that point across, the first

A properly tied tandem rig will produce flounder.

thing you've got to do to get your share of flounder is to be certain your bait is on bottom. And to do that, nothing beats a tandem-tied rig placed an inch or so above a suitable bank-style sinker, using a two-inch, double-overhand knotted loop in the main line.

You can also use a sinker snap (this is that odd-looking gadget with the oversize loop on one end), and place both sinker and hooks together. My own personal preference is not to use this gizmo until early spring when flounder are more sluggish in their approach to bait. But for this early fall fishing, forget it. You'll find these flounder full of pep, vim, and vigor, and they should be struck at once, at the first sign of a bite. Using a tandem rig tied in above the sinker will enable you to have that sensitive approach. (You can see now that there is more to flounder fishing than meets the eye.)

To tandem-tie is simplicity itself, but I would suggest that once you get the hang of it, you practice a bit so that when you are out on the grounds and need to tie on a new rigging, it becomes second nature to do so. If you don't practice enough, as simple as the procedure is, the chances are you'll make a mess of it.

Here's how to do it—and pay attention now. Take two #9 common flounder hooks (if you wish to be technical, ask for Chestertown hooks at the tackle shop) and fold the snell of one at its middle. Now, take this fold and pass it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This second hook is then placed through the fold, drawn up snugly, and secured with a common overhand knot. Don't overlook making that overhand knot. Many fishermen forget and then gnash their teeth in frustration when one hook slides down the snell of the other.

That's all there is to tandem-tying your flounder hooks. It isn't a bit complicated, but [illegible]s become so when fishermen use heavy-handed meth[illegible].

This is all you have to know about rigging for flounder—except for one more thing. Let me caution you against the use of flounder spreaders. Few experienced fishermen use them, but they are still on the market for the unwary. If I were you, I'd avoid them like the plague. Sure you'll catch fish on them, but you should also expect to lose more than your share of riggings because spreaders are notorious for fouling on the least obstruction. If seaweed is a problem in your fishing area, you are certain to gather more than your share. I might as well tell you now that few flounder will cozy up to your bait should it become festooned with weed or debris. In this respect, a word to the wise is certainly sufficient.

Good flounder tackle is important and using the right kind guarantees top sport. But as this subject will be covered in detail next week, I'd rather spend these next few words on reminding you to always carry sufficient terminal tackle. Don't spoil your day by running short just as the fish make up their minds to begin biting. And carry an extra spool of good quality mono, too. I won't go so far as to suggest you also carry an extra reel—although it won't hurt to do so. It seems that when all precautions are taken, nothing happens; and when you don't, that's when the roof falls in.

But don't lug so much stuff that you are weighted down. I know a foolish fellow who carried so many extra sinkers when he went party boat fishing, I'm surprised he didn't get a hernia. One day he was cured of that, though. The handle of his homemade tackle box pulled right out and every bit of tackle, hooks, sinkers, reels—you name it, went overboard. I know this fellow well. It was me! As with everything else in fishing, you've got to use your head. And I might add, using the old gray matter is what puts fish in the bucket.

And don't depend on luck. Few of us are courted by Lady Luck and when we are, we should give some serious thought to the reason. Nine out of ten times you'll probably find what went under the guise of luck was nothing more than preparation and intelligent use of the available knowledge at hand.

That, after all, is what you need to get ready for flounder. Nothing more, nothing less.

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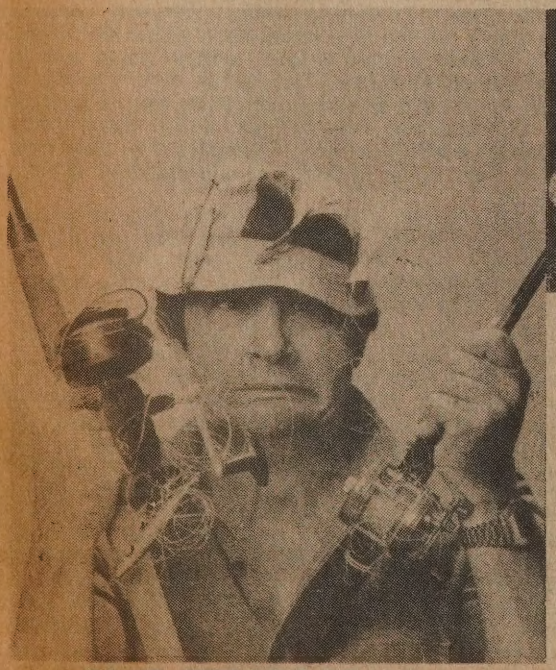

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THOSE AUTUMN BLUES

by Gerald Hahn

Going for blues on party boats in the summer and fall are two different things. In the summertime, you are likely to find most boats crowded and the fishing inconsistent, especially during the day. Blues are smaller, as well, with many schoolies caught and larger fish way offshore or out East. But from September to mid-November when summer crowds are gone, everyone catches fish because blues are schooling up all over Long Island before migrating south. Some incredible fifteen to twenty pounders are taken at this time, although most are in the ten to fourteen pound class—certainly large enough. In fact, on some boats an eight pounder is considered a "snapper."

Last fall, I concentrated on bluefishing out of the East End's north fork—an area covering Plum Gut and the Ruins north of Gardiner's Island to the Race and south of Fisher's Island. Some days we drifted, other days we anchored, but all the fishing here was just off the bottom.

My first trip out, however, an overcast, windy day of drifting off Plum Island, was not one to convince anybody about quality bluefishing in the fall. Ten anglers caught only eight fish and some people encountered not a single hit all day. It happens—but after talking to some regulars aboard, I decided to try again the following week. On the second trip, we anchored before 10AM east of the Ruins. It was low slack and very quiet for the first hour on this day of threatening weather. Just as the water began moving and a couple of people started it off with a pair of ten pounders, a sudden squall resembling a cyclone came out of Orient Point. Within minutes, the vagaries of autumn were upon us, drenching the boat with pounding rain and beating it with twenty-five mile per hour gusts that turned the sea black and spooked the fish. With tide and wind at full force now, it looked like it was going to be another one of "those days." But the captain kept reassuring us for the next hour or so with a "be patient." Then, as the tide slowed down at a second dropoff and the wind abated somewhat, suddenly a series of hits came along the stern and tail end of the port side. Within minutes, anglers were shouting for gaffs from every part of the boat and the action continued like this to the end of the day. After three hours of continuous fishing, eleven arm-weary anglers left the fish tearing into our last scaps of bunker. The mates called it a "fifty pound day"—an average of five bluefish per man ranging in weight from eight to fourteen pounds. On my next trip, I experienced a "one hundred pound day"; bluefish to be had all day from the first to the last drift off Fisher's Island. The pool fish weighed eighteen pounds!!

When dealing with monsters this size, many fish are lost. I saw several blues leap out of the water like tarpon and break fifty pound test like a rubber band. In other cases, fish were so densely schooled, some would inevitably cut the line somewhere below and even with only a dozen anglers aboard, tangles would account for the rest of the losses. Despite all this, I prefer to go light these days and use twenty-five pound test instead of the standard fifty. I get a lot more hits—and breakoffs—which is why I prepare my own rigs. At $2.50 each, chain 'n drail rigs can cost half as much as the fare.

Rigs for bluefishing vary from place to place, but most party boats out of the north fork use a two-hook chain and drail. A twelve ounce drail sinker is connected to about eight-and-a-half inches of window sash chain with a #56 Duo-Lock snap. The top hook, an 8/0 O'Shaughnessy or Siwash, is connected to about the fourth link with a heavy-duty, stainless steel split ring and a 10/0 hook (preferably with an offset point) goes on the bottom. Both hooks are fairly long-shanked types, the bottom one open-eyed for direct attachment to the chain. The total distance between the eye of the top hook and the bend of the bottom one is nine-and-a-half inches—almost custom made for the bunkers used here. A sinker mold for casting ten to twelve ounce drails with wire-through brass eyes and some lead will save you quite a bit. A trip to a hardware store for chain and S connectors (another way of attaching chain to sinker) and a mail order tackle shop for snaps and hooks in bulk, and dozens of rigs can be made for a fraction of the cost.

Baiting up with two hook rigs is simple: the top hook is pushed through the lower jaw and out of the top of the bunker's head. This closes the mouth and secures the bait in front. The chain is then laid flat along the side of the bait and the bottom hook inserted near the

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dorsal fin, the belly, or tail—depending on its length. Although two hook rigs look most impressive, blues rarely hit the top hook and if you prefer, a single hook rig works just as well most days. But then you can never tell when a big bruiser is going to engulf your bait. In fact, on one trip, a person caught a double-header—two, ten pounders—with this rig. Apparently both fish were vying for the same bait. The first one cut the bunker in half, getting the tail hook. Not to be outdone, the other blue went for the head and caught the top hook. To be sure, when blues are in, almost anything will do, even an ordinary bottom rig with a diamond sinker.

Tackle for fall blues varies as well. Most anglers out east bring their own, ranging from five foot wands to nine foot cod sticks. A seven foot conventional rod with a springy tip and plenty of backbone is perfect. Smaller, lighter rods will provide more thrills, but nobody in his right mind brings spinning gear for fish of this size. Conventional reels range from Garcia 624s to Penn 60, 65; Jigmasters and Squidders, but any reel around 3/0 in size will do. Should it have a fast retrieve or slow? With bait, it hardly matters; with artificials, it does. You want a fast retrieve for the latter. Line weight is a decision you will have to make for yourself, unless you rent, in which case you get fifty pound test monofilament. If you want a lot of action (as I do), go lighter, but remember the consequences. Here are some options:

Sportfishing: A six foot rod and matching reel filled with twenty-five to thirty pound test Ande or Stren pink mono. Tie a doubled clinch knot to the drail by forming a six inch loop and inserting it through the sinker eye. Then tie a standard or improved clinch knot with this doubled line. Be prepared for more hits, more action, and more losses than anybody else is likely to get.

Meatfishing: An eight foot cod stick with matching reel filled with fifty to sixty pound test. For extra security, use a twelve to eighteen inch flexible wire leader with a barrel swivel on one end and a Duo-Lock snap on the other. Many cut-offs occur on the main line just above the sinker. Or tie a length of eighty pound test to the sinker as a shocker.

Compromise: A seven foot rod and matching reel, forty to fifty pound test with or without the wire leader.

In **all** cases, it is imperative to check the line after catching or losing a blue. The slightest cut or stretch in the line and you will probably lose the next fish—and the rig. Fifty pound test will be reduced to thirty and twenty-five to chewing gum. Cut back a few feet of line and retie the rig. Check your line as well; if you had a severe tangle, especially when going light; twenty-five pound test has no chance against fifty when tangles happen.

Although everyone catches bluefish on a good day, the difference between newcomers and experienced anglers means two fish caught vs. ten. Surprisingly, big bluefish are not easy to hook. For details on many problems encountered, refer to my article, "Hooking and Playing Fish," #50, Dec. 14, 1978. A few major tips for now. Set drag just below the breaking point, then leave it alone. Select baits so that tail hook is, indeed, as close to the tail as possible. Reel up four to six turns after rig hits bottom (if you plan to fish in this area); pause before striking the fish; keep its head in the water and duck around your neighbor to avoid tangling.

In the Race, Plum Gut and off Fisher's Island, there are a few peculiarities to watch for. First hits of the day are usually sudden, on-and-off hits. Reel up and rebait fast, because these fish will not touch a severed bait. Later on, you can use almost anything—but whole bait is usually best. Although most of the fish are caught on bait, artificials have their moments. Use an eight to twelve ounce diamond jig tied directly to the main line and work it near the bottom rather than reeling up all the way: most of the fish here run deep. A well-worked jig does have the advantage of speed because drifts are typically brief here, unlike Block Island bluefishing. I have seen experienced jiggers pick up two fish on a single drift—no time wasted rebaiting.

• If you missed out on the summer run or had little success then, find a party boat you like and try fall bluefishing. If you're interested in the area described, check the ads in the L.I.F. In the fall, pandemonium breaks loose everywhere. On one trip, it took an experienced angler twelve minutes to bring an eighteen pounder to gaff. Shortly after, he lost a bigger one. "Nothing moved for the first ten minutes," he told me, subsequently. Incredible.

CRABBING AS A CHALLENGE:

Four Sporting Ways to Catch Blue Claws

by Sal Terranova

The dog days of summer are characterized by a modern-day phenomenon that brings to mind the biblical story of the Exodus. Any given weekend will bear witness to thousands of souls fleeing the confines of the greater Metropolitan Area to head for the nearest body of water. Of course, they're not escaping the Pharoah chariots, but rather the sweltering, steaming hot streets of the Big Apple. The majority will head for the beaches and the pleasures of bathing and bikini watching. However, a sizeable number of folks will flock to the pier, jetty, and bulkhead, where they will not only obtain relief from the heat provided by the sea breezes, but will also attempt to match wits with the sea life inhabiting the area. Finfish such as sand porgies, fluke and snappers are the main targets of the pier and bulkhead angling fraternity. Not to be slighted, however, are the members of the crustacean family, well represented by the blue claw crab. A surprisingly swift little fellow, the blue claw has caused more than a few unwary fishermen to wince in pain when attempting to handle him.

As a youngster, I spent many a day prowling along the piers, jetties, and creeks that dot the shore line in pursuit of snappers, fluke, and when abundant—the blue claw crab. Just roaming about the banks of a creek, exploring and marveling at the myriad varieties of life that abounded in the vicinity as the cattail reeds swayed back and forth in tune to the rhythm of the summer breezes, as if participating in Nature's own symphony, was paradise in itself. Any of King Neptune's bounty that came my way was considered an extra bonus, for the spectacle of the gulls employing all their wits to harness the wind's power to their best advantage; the schools of spearing swimming herky-jerky in tight formation just beyond the reeds, ever on guard for the marauding snappers; the occasional blue claw—a visual feast of olive green carapace and indigo blue claws, with undertones of crimson, lazily paddling along just under the surface with her two swimmerets—for me, comprised the greatest show on earth. Going after the blue claws was my favorite pastime, for they could be hunted down visually, thereby providing the added thrill of the chase, as opposed to fishing, where your opponent was felt, but not seen. Crabbing techniques such as scoop-netting them off of pilings or jacking at night with the aid of a light were just what the doctor ordered to fulfill the hunting aspect of the game.

When crabbing with a baited handline or killy ring, patience and agility were brought into play, for one had to slowly pull the crab up to the surface, and then quickly net him before he realized his predicament and released his hold on the bait. All too soon, the halcyon days of my youth faded into time, and I became more absorbed with the more sophisticated forms of angling, as did my youthful companions who had often accompanied me on these waterfront expeditions. Still, every now and then, I get the urge to relive my boyhood by spending a sultry summer afternoon along the bay, casting for snappers and crabbing. When I mentioned this idea to my angling companions, whom I wished to join me, and who are usually preoccupied with planning a striped bass or tuna trip, the reaction I get is as though I suggested we try some fun sport such as kissing the third rail on the subway. "Crabs? Are you kidding? That's for kids!"; "Picking up some dumb trap to see if you've caught anything by potluck! Some challenge! What a bore!" This sort of response is common. But perhaps my friends have a point, for many crabbers employ crab traps and frankly, although they are no doubt effective, there isn't much sport involved. When using a trap, you have no way of knowing when the crabs are actually getting at the bait; therefore, all you are doing is periodically bringing the trap up to the surface to see how lucky you've been.

The crab traps I am referring to are the square, box-like contraptions, in widespread use among crabbers. Of the six sides of the trap, only the top and bottom are connected to each other by a heavy wire framework, while the other four sides are only joined to the framework at the bottom, thereby allowing the trap to drop open. The top of each of the four sides is connected to a main line by a short length of cord. When a crabber decides to haul the trap in to check it, the pull on the main line closes the open sides as the trap is yanked off the bottom, thereby trapping any crabs that were feasting on the bait secured to the bottom of the trap. Vice versa, when the trap is lowered to the bottom, the sides obviously drop open when the pressure on the main line is relaxed, thus leaving the way open for the crabs to get at the bait.

Traps are fine for kids and the lazy fisherman, but as you can see, they rely most on potluck and there isn't much of a challenge in working them. Fortunately, there are alternative methods of crabbing that are just as effective as traps, and much more fun to boot. Handlining crabs with bait, killy rings, jacking crabs at night and scoop-netting crabs off of pilings in the day are methods that are fairly easy to learn and require no elaborate gear, besides being more of a challenge. The only item required that will put a slight dent in your budget is a long-handled scoop net similar to the landing net you use when fishing for fluke or weaks. The only real difference between the two is the depth of the "bag," the crab net's being of shallower depth to facilitate the removal of the crabs from the netting. I crab with the same net I use for fishing, with satisfactory results. Other items needed are commonly found laying around the garage—with the exception of sinkers.

Handlining crabs, killy rings, netting and jacking, of course, are all methods that have been around a long time. However, it seems to me, judging from the amount of crabbers who employ traps, that these methods are not much in vogue. Part of this may be a result of unfamiliarity with these techniques, so perhaps it's time for a brief refresher course.

Handlining crabs and using a killy ring are basically the same technique, the only difference being the type of bait used and the way the bait is attached to the line. In both methods, the bait is lowered into the water, to wait until the crabs start picking at it. When this happens, the line is slowly and steadily retrieved. The

crabs, thinking the bait is getting away, will clamp their jaws down and hang on. Your prey will come up to the surface provided you do not jerk the line, or pull it in so fast as to scare him off. Remember, he's not trapped or hooked, he's just stubbornly hanging onto a fish head that, as far as he's concerned, doesn't know it's dead yet. When you have him up to the surface and within reach, a scoop net is called into play. This is the moment of truth, for the crab usually realizes something is amiss when he's up at the surface and sees you and your partner (strange looking beings, no doubt) standing there sticking this "long claw" into the water. If you and your partner aren't swift and accurate with the net, the crab will release his hold on the bait, and quickly dive to the bottom. You net a crab by quickly placing the net underneath him, not "clawing" at him from the top. If you try to net him from the top or side, he will see the net coming and easily avoid it. However, by positioning the net below him, the chances are he'll dive into it or in a direction where you can easily intercept him.

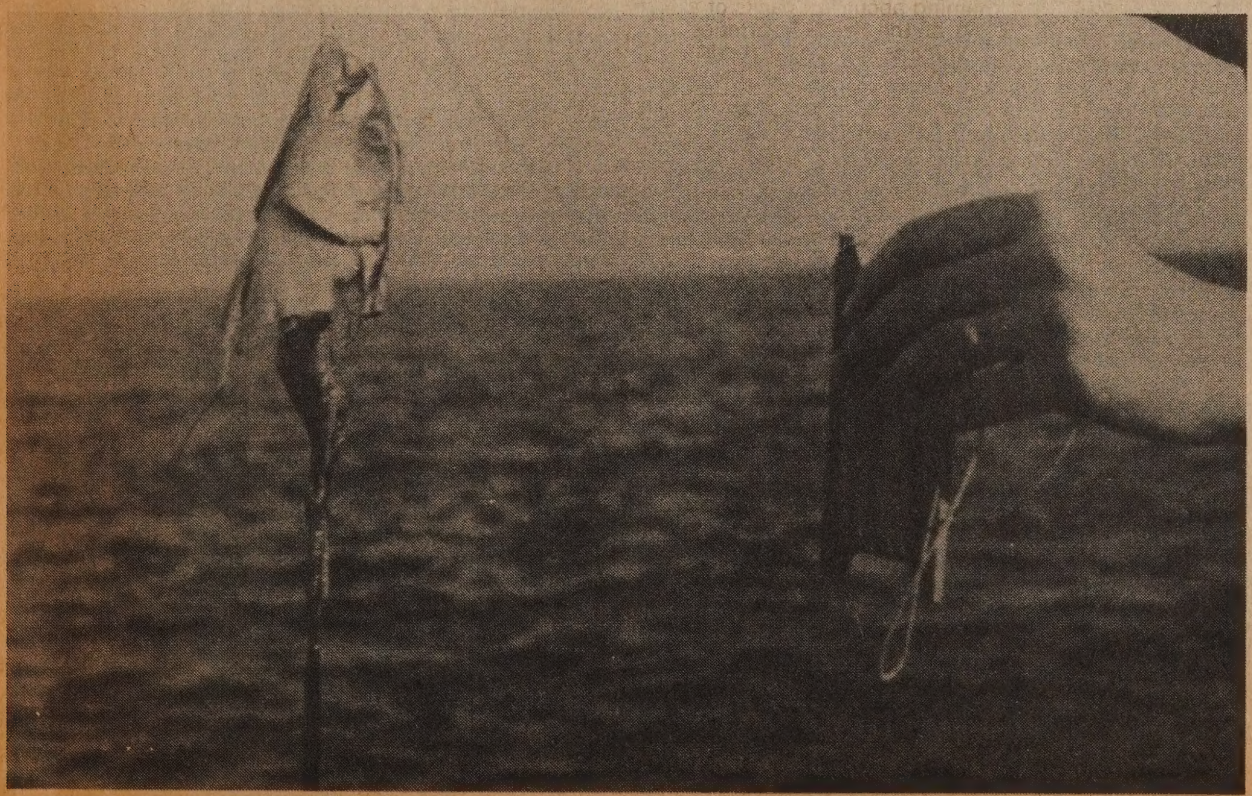
Besides a net, all that is required for handlining crabs is a fifty foot length of handline, a sinker and a fish head or whole fish for bait. The handline can be the nylon "crabline" sold in tackle shops, or any stout cord found around the house. A thickness slightly larger than that which you commonly tie packages with is just about right. The simplest version of a handline consists of the cord—your end secured either to a stake on land or an oarlock in a skiff, with the fish attached to the other end. Run the line through the gill and out of the mouth of the fish. Most crabbers attach a two or three ounce sinker to the line to give it casting weight if they're crabbing from shore, and to ensure that the bait stays put and sinks directly to the bottom. When crabbing from a skiff, the sinker is tied to the line a few inches away from the bait with a double-overhand knot. Bolts or old spark plugs can be used in place of a sinker. As you probably have noticed, crabs aren't too particular as far as the niceties of rigging are concerned.

A crab line that I've come to favor for its convenience, can easily be fashioned in the following manner: a sinker is tied several inches away from the end of the line, while a stiff wire sinker clip of the type found on pre-packaged codfish rigs, is tied to the end itself. The bait, be it a mackerel, whiting, or whatever, is impaled through the eyes with the clip which is then snapped shut. This will ensure that the crabs don't walk away with the bait, and will facilitate changing baits. Commercially made crab lines are available, consisting of a line with a lead weight with a bait clip molded into it, attached to the end. They are both effective and inexpensive.

A killy ring is worked exactly like a crab line. The ring consists of a wire ring less than a foot in diameter with a catch fashioned to one end to allow the ring to be opened and closed for baiting purposes. Anywhere from half a dozen to a dozen dead killies or spearing are strung on the ring by sticking the wire through their bodies, or better yet, through the gills and out the mouth. A sinker is attached to either the ring, or to the line a few inches away from it. To my knowledge, I am not aware of any commercially made killy rings. However, they are quite easily made by untwisting a wire clothing hanger and shaping it into a ring with a catch on one end to close the contraption.

Handlines and killy rings can be employed from either shore or a skiff. Crabs are normally found close to shore in harbors, creeks, and bays; in short, in any estuarine waters in our area. Of course, some days are better than others. I strictly crab around the high tide; that is, a couple of hours before and after the high slack, for I've found this stage of the tide to be generally more productive. Low tide periods tend to yield few crabs. Always remember to secure your end of the line to something, otherwise you will be making many killy rings. Any fish, frozen or fresh, will make good crab bait, with mackerel, whiting, and bunker popular choices. I sometimes use the filleted remains (known as "stocks") of whatever I caught on my last fishing trip, and have found that crabs love to pick at the meat between the bones. Some crabbers successfully use animal remains such as chicken or beef scraps and innards, as crabs are not fussy eaters. However, whole fish are your best bet, and it pays to slash the sides and

(Continued on next page.)



A fish head tied to a handline will lure many crabs to your net.

stomach cavity with a knife, allowing the flesh and guts to be exposed to further stimulate the crabs' appetite and attract them to the bait.

Anybody who has spent some time by the shore front has, no doubt, observed blue claws clinging to the pilings, or merrily swimming along just below the surface. Crabbers who methodically walk along the edges of piers and bulkheads with a long-handled net in hand, often go home with enough crabs to make a tasty dish of "Pasta con sugo di granci," or something like that (my Italian leaves much to be desired), better known as Spaghetti with Crab Sauce.

To catch crabs in this manner, all that's needed besides a net are sharp eyes and swift hands. As mentioned before, always scoop the crab from underneath if the pilings don't pose an obstacle; otherwise you will likely go home with few crabs and much frustration. This method is one of the more exciting ways to crab, offering many thrills as the crabs attempt (all too often, successfully) to evade your net. Exciting as netting is, with the thrill of seeing and stalking your prey, it is also one of the least productive techniques as far as the amount of crabs you can expect to catch is concerned; more so if you are shore-bound. There is a limit to the amount of crabs that are going to be found clinging to pilings or just swimming around during daylight in any given area. Add misses and competition from other crabbers, and the supply of "sitting duck" crabs in a locale will quickly diminish, even though there may be plenty of crabs strolling along the bottom. Netting crabs from a skiff will yield more crabs simply because you will be covering a wider area and stalking crabs in areas not accessible to the shore-bound crabber. Netting crabs from a skiff should be a two-man operation, with one man rowing and steering the boat; while the other does the netting. Always put your crabs in a secure, upright container, placed on the bottom of the skiff, where it is not likely to get overturned. A bushel basket is ideal, but any bucket will do. One of the most comical scenes I have witnessed was two crabbers in a skiff attempting to deal with several dozen cornery blue claws dancing across the bottom of the skiff, as a result of one of the crabbers knocking over the cooler in which the crabs were being kept—the cooler having been thoughtlessly placed on a seat. Occasionally, one of the critters may get away from you and quickly scamper to a corner of your skiff, where he'll thrust his pincers outward, ready to take on all comers. The best way to deal with this situation and not get nipped in the process is to dangle a rag in front of the crab. The blue claw will clamp onto the rag, whereby you can easily lift him and deposit him in the container.

Netting crabs can be tricky. They are fast, and the optical illusion caused by the light waves bending (refraction) under the surface of the water will throw your aim off. If you're poling along in shallow water, you may occasionally come across a crab scampering across the bottom. They can be netted, but you must be a first-rate net handler, for the sandy bottom will prove to be a hindrance.

Jacking crabs at night consists of roaming along the bulkheads and creek banks on foot, or poling across the bay in a skiff, netting crabs with the aid of a strong light as jacking is a nocturnal activity. The light should be wielded by a partner as it is very difficult to net crabs, work the light and possibly steer a skiff all by your lonesome. Apart from the obvious difference between day and night and the use of the light, the only other difference between netting and jacking is that you will encounter, for reasons unbeknownst to me (possibly because daylight makes the crabs more vulnerable to predators), many more blue claws swimming just under the surface at night than during the day. This makes jacking a lot more productive in terms of numbers than daylight netting; in fact, jacking will account for just as many crabs as trapping or handlining. Apart from a net, a partner, and a good strong flashlight, the only requirement for a successful night of jacking crabs is a calm, moonlit night, wtih little or no breeze on the bay.

Theoretically, the beam of light flashing in the water is supposed to appeal to the blue claws' curiosity, thus allowing you to coax them within netting distance by slowly manipulating the beam of light in an enticing manner, by keeping the brightest part of the beam just in front of the crab, leading him to his doom as he follows the beam to the boat. I've found this part of crabbing lore to be inconsistent with my own experiences, for whenever I've gone jacking, the blue claws were more often frightened by this sudden and unusual out-of-nowhere blast of brightness, and usually headed straight for the bottom upon having the light flashed near them. Only quick boat maneuvering, coordinated with swift and sure netting has yielded a respectable average of crabs sighted and caught, as opposed to crabs sighted and lost—which were either frightened away or missed with the net. Some crabbers prefer to hang a lantern off the bow of the boat, therefore, dispensing with the need for your partner to hold the light while poling the boat. A six-volt dry cell battery is preferable to a regular flashlight, as the beam is stronger and the battery will last longer. If you elect to confine your crab jacking to land, wear a good pair of sneakers and be prepared to cover a lot of ground. Although one person can hold the light and net crabs simultaneously, a two-man system whereby one man nets, while the other works the light and carries along a container in which to deposit your catch, is far more desirable. It is recommended that you get your hands on the longest-handled net within reason when you jack crabs from shore. This method provides more than its share of thrills, laughs and Keystone Cop-type shenanigans, as you scramble along the banks and bulkheads in the dark, simultaneously trying to place yourself in the most advantageous position in which to intercept a crab while trying not to trip over your partner who is trying to place himself in the best position in which to hold the light. One trip I made several years ago saw me and my companion suddenly discover, much to our consternation, that we had inadvertently wandered along bulkhead and creek bank some two miles away from the car, engrossed as we were in the pursuit of the blue claws.

Bring your children along when jacking blue claws from shore (always keeping an eye on them, of course) for this activity really appeals to kids. You will not soon forget their excited squeals of delight as they romp along after the crabs. Jacking from shore is also an activity that goes hand-in-hand with a beach party. Ironically, jacking from a skiff is the exact opposite, as there are few activities that match the serenity of silently poling along a quiet, moonlit bay.

Although there is no size limit in effect in New York State, I would recommend that you release any crabs that measure less than four inches across the widest part of the back. Crabs smaller than this have very little meat on them and are best returned to the water in order to preserve the stock.

It goes without saying that you must release "sponge crabs." Sponge crabs are female blue claws that have a gelatinous mass of orange-brownish eggs attached to their undersides. The reason they should be released is obvious, and as they are protected by law, you may receive a fine if you are found with "sponges" in your possession.

Give these challenging methods of crabbing a try. They are all fun, fairly simple to learn, yet requiring some skill and good reflexes, and are inexpensive as far as equipment is concerned. Crabbing is primarily a summer sport, with August and early September being the prime times. However, don't fall for the common misconception that crabs magically disappear the day after Labor Day. Good crabbing can be had through September and into October, depending on how fast the weather cools, with the largest specimens being more abundant towards the end of the season. Any bays, creeks, and estuaries along the South Shore of Long Island, and New Jersey will likely hold some blue claws. You will find that crabbing can indeed be challenging, with untangling a pugnacious biue claw from a scoop net without being bitten an art in itself!

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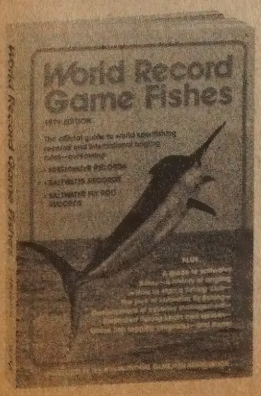

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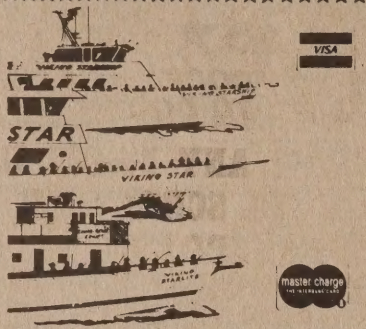

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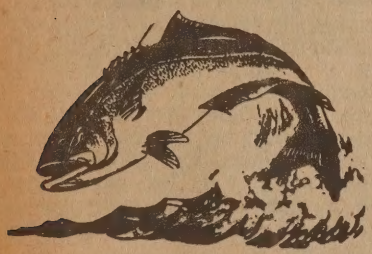

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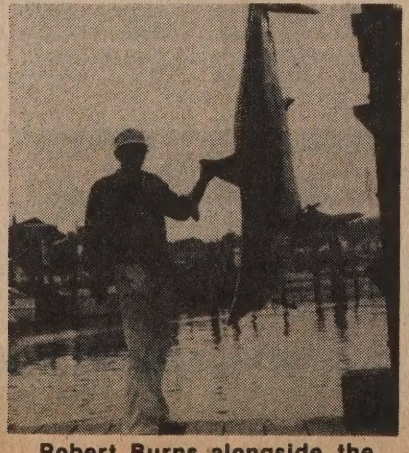
MONTAUK ★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that the porgy action has been great ever since the storm last week. There is still plenty of fish at Gardiner's Island, but Cerebrus Shoals is also alive with fish. On Monday Phil Westbrook of Brooklyn was high hook with 115 of porgies and on Tuesday John Stonitsch took the high hook honors with 134 porgies. On Thursday an anglers known as "B.C." of Brooklyn, was high hook with 106 fish, an even in the high winds and sloppy seas on Friday the high hook was over 90 porgies. Buddy said that there is a mixture of seabass, flounder, and small blackfish mixed in the catch.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the bluefishing at Cartwright is fantastic. His 2 and 3 man charters have been taking 50 to 70 giant bluefish for a half-day trip and the fish average 10 lbs. and go as high as 20. They are almost committing suicide on diamond jigs and the boats fishing with herring are slaughtering them also.

This huge 65 lb. cod was the pool winner on a recent Nantucket trip by the "Viking Starship." Lucky angler was Joe Peragine of College Point.



Robert Burns alongside the 289 lb. mako he landed S.E. of Montauk aboard the charter boat "Sea Doll."

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** said that the minigiant and giant bluefin tuna are still around in big numbers in the Mud Hole area off Block Island. Almost all of the boats chunking with herring and bunker are having hookups but few fish are being landed by Montauk Base boats. For some reason the boats fishing out of Rhode Island are really scoring, and on Tuesday the Rhode Islanders bagged 7 giants up to 700 lbs. Henry added that the Cartwright action with herring and diamond jigging is deadly.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the codfishing remains excellent at Block Island and Coxes Ledge and it looks as if a large body of small and medium cod have moved into the area. Few fluke are left but those being taken on the south side are real monsters. On Thursday afternoon three 14 lb. fish were bagged. Porgy fishing is still very good and the night bluefishing at Cartwright is unreal.

Jack Passie of the charterboat **Windy** reported that early in the week he was fishing Cartwright Grounds and taking 30 or more large blues a trip diamond jigging. On Wednesday he fished south of Block Island all day and caught 180 bluefish on diamond jigs in 100' of water south of the Southeast Light.

Last Saturday, September 8th, 1979 a contendor for blue shark in 50 lb. class was taken some 30 miles off Montauk Point on Jim Olsen's 23 ft. Mako the Peggy-O of Merrick. The angler on the custom made

This 375 lb. bluefin tuna was landed by Paul Keogli of Canada aboard the Montauk charterboat "Adios."

Paul, John and Jeff with 70 giant bluefish and 2 weakfish with a combined weight of over 700 lbs. They were caught on Ava diamond jigs aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charter boat *Vivienne.*

pole, made by Ronnie Ferrara was Roy Carpenter of Baldwin, on the fly gaff was Roy Maines, on the tail rope was Bob Krombach. The battle took almost 1 hour. During the fight the shark dove under the boat 9 times and had to be walked around the boat each time, which was a bit hectic to say the least. The fish was weighed at 393 lbs. and may be a new I.G.F.A. World Record. The current record 371½ taken in 1969 also in Montauk. The irronic part is they almost tagged the fish and let it loose for at first glance it appeared under 315 lbs., the previous private record of the angler.

These monster blues were taken south of Cartwright by Russ Knorr, Merle Megison, and Doc Thorne. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

Henry and Bill with some big blues taken on jigs at Cartwright. Fishing was done aboard the charter boat, "Windy."

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Roy Carpenter of Baldwin with the 393-lb. blue shark he caught at Montauk last week. Roy, an L.I.F. subscriber, may have set a new I.G.F.A. World Record for 50-lb. class line.

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SHINNECOCK

Mickey at **Altenkirch Tackle** reported that surfcasters were taking a lot of bluefish and weakfish from the beach around Shinnecock Inlet before the storm. There are still some sharks around, as evidenced by the 412 lb. mako taken in 150' of water on Tuesday by Harry Carter on the Scamp III. A few fluke are left in Shinnecock Inlet and there are big snappers in the canal. Meanwhile, the **Capt. Clark Fleet** has been doing a number on the porgies and weakfish in the deeper water of Peconic Bay. On Tuesday over 100 weakfish were nailed in addition to all the porgies you want.

Thom of **Speck's Bait & Tackle** said that Marie Webber had 6 fluke to 4 lbs. along with a couple of nice sea bass in East Channel. Tom knew of some blackfish being taken along the Shinnecock Inlet jetty on fiddler

Eight-year-old Nicole McDermott proudly displays the 3 lb. fluke she landed on her Dad's boat, the Poor Box, in Moriches Bay. Subscriber photo.

★Shinnecock Canal★

WEAKFISH & PORGIES 2 OPEN BOATS

CAPT. CLARK I&II 8 A.M. DAILY

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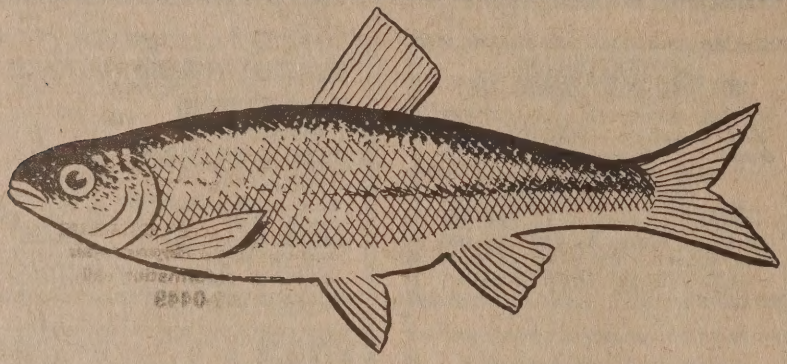
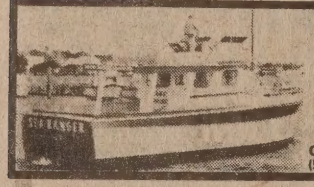


★BABYLON★BABYLON★



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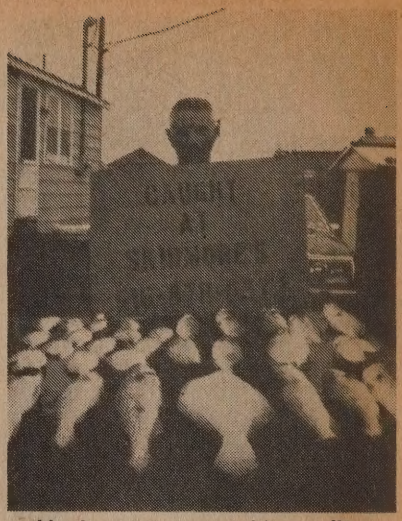
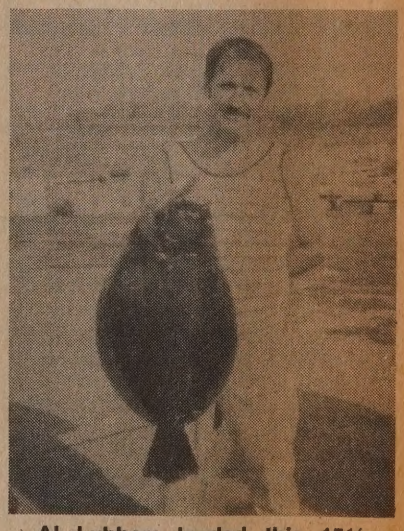


Hank Schlanger with a fine mixed catch of weaks, porgies, snappers and a fluke. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

crabs and worms. Snappers plentiful throughout the bay. In Peconic Bay good porgy and weakfish action at buoy 18 and also at the Rose Grove. Squid strips or worms take the weaks while clams and worms take the porgies

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells us early in the week, Stan Seneski and Roger Royalty were out on Stan's boat and Roger hooked and landed a 224 lb. mako in 150' of water southeast of the inlet. In the same area, Pete Miglinoco and Eric Wagner bagged a 301 lb. tiger plus an additional 70 lb. tiger shark, which was released. Blues have been steady up to the storm in 60-85' of water and there are a lot of big fish in the 12-15 lb. range.



Al Lubbers landed this 15½ lb. doormat fluke just outside of Moriches Inlet on a spearing. Photo courtesy of East Moriches Bait and Tackle.

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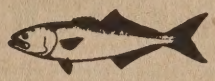

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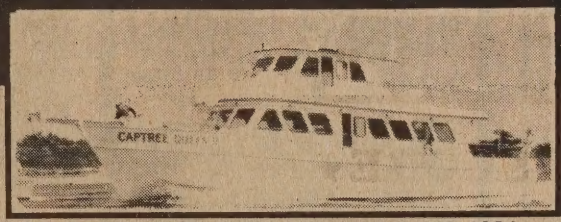

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Fluking has been good at the inlets this past week, to the tune of 15-20 good keepers per skilled boat-load, mainly at the top of the flood on sand eels, killies and squid. The hole at buoy 42 has been producing good weaks, porgies, blacks, and sea bass plus a few flounder, flounder in the 1/2 lb. range. A good spot. Flounder just starting to show.

Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reports that they are catching weakfish and porgies NE of buoy 42. There have been some flounder taken in the same area and the blueclaw crabs have been excellent by buoy 43.

This fine catch of 15 fluke was made by Miss Louise Lanna in Moriches Bay. Live killies took the fish. Photo courtesy of Tadsen's Fishing Station.

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GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishng Station** informs us the blue claw crab situation remains fantastic from buoy 17 to 12 in traps and on rings. There is a smorgasbord of blowfish, sea bass, porgies, kingfish, weaks and eels at buoys 12-9 on worms, clams and squid bait.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Youngs Fishing Station** tells of some great goings-on. Rental boats are averaging 40 plus weakfish up to 5 lbs. working within one mile off Browns River. A lot are also being caught around the dredge boats. Hook bait is squid strips or snapper fillets. Good numbers of kingfish mixed in, usually 5-10 per boat and a few fluke enliven the action also. Heavy catches of porgies the majority of which are under 1 lb., are being caught from 2-2½ miles southeast of the station. Snappers are now around 10''. Vinnie says this is some of the best fishing in years. Al Morgan has been boating a minimum of 70 mixed fish every time he goes out. Regular Clay Hardman on Tuesday had 66 weaks and 8 kings. Blueclaws remain terrific.

BAY SHORE

Casey Lee's skipper Neil Delanoy tells us fluking improved Wed. and Thurs. Wednesday saw 15 fares boat 101 good keepers, while Thursday's trip saw 14 fares bag an even 60 keepers. These fish were in the 2-3 lb. range and the boat worked the inlet area. Both tides produced on killies, sand eels and spearing. On Friday, Sept. 21, the boat will begin flounder fishing and if catches are good enough, they will fish flounder only. If action is only lukewarm, trips will be half flounder and half fluke.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of weaks at the lighthouse on live snapper, on fish finder rigs, fish in the 8-12 lb. category. One-half to 2 lb. porgies at Ocean Beach, Kismet and behind buoy 8, with sea bass mixed in. Boyd Miller of Brentwood bagged 2 dz. big porgies and 150 small ones plus 6 sea bass in the 2-3 lb. range working Kismet's buoy 8 with squid. Big snappers in the bay. Blackfish at the construction dock, and at Kismet reef on fiddlers and green crabs. Lots of blueclaw crabs still around.Blowfish at buoy 8 and Ocean Beach. Blues off Patchogue, 5-15 lbers, roughly 8 miles off the beach. Boats fishing off the pipeline are trolling blues on umbrellas, 1 to 1½ miles off the beach in the 3-5 lb. range and are also getting some bonito. Charter boat **Rum N Coke II** had 24 blues up to 15 lbs. 5 oz. Boats hitting Hudson Canyon are getting yellowfin tuna, longfin albacore and kick ups from swordfish.

CAPTREE

Captain George Roman of the **Captree Queen II** tells us the day and night bluefishing has been just fantastic, that you couldn't want it any better. Fish have all been running 8-14 lbs. It's bananas and diamond jigs daytime and bait at night, all fished dead on the bottom off Patchogue in 110' to 120' of water.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports bluefishing has been a slaughter on both day and night trips, working the outer limits at Cuthogue Lake in 120' of water. Fish are mostly in the 10-14 lb. range. During the day its diamond jigs and nighttime it's bait, all fished hard on the bottom. Fluking has improved mid-week in the inlet area. Porgies, sea bass and blacks are making things intersting at the Ocean reef in good numbers on clams and squid.

Capt. Speedy Hubert on the **Speedy VI** reported that during the week they had the best bluefishing all season at the Outer Patchogue Banks. Speedy said that the fishing has been unbelieveable both day and night and anglers are taking anywhere from 25 to 50 bluefish and 8 and 20 bonito, depending on how long there arms hold up. School bluefin tuna, skipjack and albacore are also mixed in with the bluefish in 120' of water. The fish are taking bait and diamond jigs with incredible consistency.

The **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reported that the fluke fishing in Fire Island Inlet showed signs of improving on Thursday before the latest big blow. Now's the time for that last shot at the fluke as they bunch up in the Inlet and prepare to make their fall offshore migration.

Capt. Charlie Bower of the **Capt. Whittaker** reported that blackfishing has been good at the 22 wrecks and Artificial reef he fishes in the bay. Anglers are taking between 10 and 15 blackfish each and there is a sprinkling of seabass and porgies mixed in. The Captain said that the pool winner on Friday was 5 lbs. and as the water continues to cool he expects larger blackfish to move in to the shallow bay waters.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** said that the bluefishing went wild this week off Patchogue Beach and that boat has been taking up to 400 fish with a few anglers that are coming out for this great action. The fish range up to 15 lbs. and there are a lot of bonito mixed in, and occasionally some bluefin tuna come into the slick.

The open boat **Capt. Ben Litwin** is now running full time for porgies, sea bass and blackfish. Mrs. Litwin

Greg and Bob Milano, with an assist from brother Chris, decked 27 blues on a recent night trip aboard the Captree open boat, "Captree Queen." Fish ran from 6 to 12 lbs.

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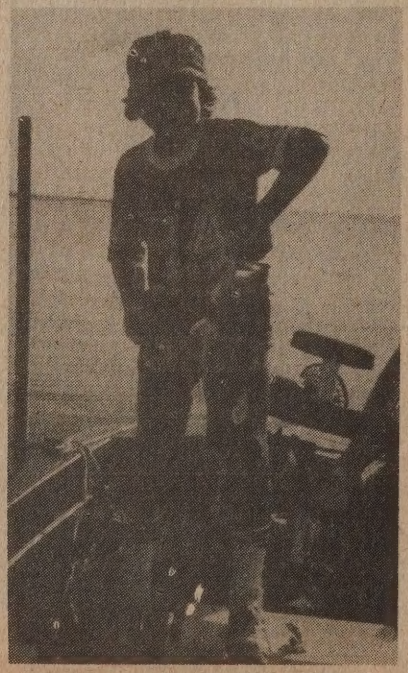

Young David Kwitko with a nice largemouth he landed on a visit to Florida's Lake Okeechobee. Subscriber photo.

reported porgy fishing has been quite good and a few small sea bass have been mixed in. Fishing is being done at the Fire Island Reef, Kismet Reef and the WB buoy.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports there are still some weaks at the lighthouse in the 8-12 lb. category, hitting live snappers. Also small weaks at the Heckscher flats in the 2-5 lb. category hitting squid strips. Big blues for surfcasters at Fl Inlet on the ocean side. Poppers, swimmers and tins are all working. Blue claw crabbing remains good as does the snapper action. Flatfish action has been improving at the bridges and at Kismet Reef on fiddlers and green crab. Kingfish to 2 lbs. in the bay on worms. Still some big fluke around. Dolores weighed in a 10½ lber. which was caught in Jones Inlet and also a 5 lber. pulled from Fire Island Inlet. She has heard rumors of flounder being caught off Bergen Point.

Kurt at **High Hook Fishing Station** tells of weaks on the east side of the bridge on incoming water, fish in the 2-3 lb. range. Ben Jamines has 4 weaks and 10 fluke all on squid. Lance Hales bagged 5 good fluke on incoming at Snake Hill Channel on squid-spearing combos.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★BEST BET★
MIXED BAG

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle tells us Thurday saw quite an upswing in the number of fluke caught from the inlet to the Coast Guard Station on sand eels and squid. Fiddlers and green crabs are accounting for good catches of blacks at the Kismet reef. A few stripers including a 22 lber., have been caught this past week at Cedar Overlook on live eels at night. Flounder have started to some degree and will be improving. Crabs and snappers still good, though starting to thin out. Blues, bonito and albies offshore on umbrellas. The Canyon has produced some bigeye tuna and true albacore this week. Good fall fishing says John. Also weakfish at Heckscher and Snake Hill on squid, for those fishing east of the Robert Moses Bridge. Sand worms and small banana splits are also working.

COPIAGUE

larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports blues have been caught pretty well this week along with bonito at Cholera and Patchogue Ridge, fish in the 8-14 lb. range to the east. Weakfishing has been great at the Lighthouse on live bunker or live snapper, fish in the 12-14 lb. range. One was brought into the store gutted and weighed out at 11½ lbs. Snapper action is great and the fish are big sized. Football tuna at the mud hole on rigged squid. Blackfish at the outside reef and at the Rota Wreck.

SEAFORD

Pop's Fishing Station reports crabbing remains extremely good. Ed Love is still managing his 8-10 keeper fluke per trip, though they are admittedly harder to catch now. A 4 lber. was brought in on Wednesday. Fluking is best between the Meadowbrook and 3rd Wantagh near Haunts Creek on killies and squid. Lots of snappers and sand porgies from Massapequa Cove to the 3rd bridge, all through the channel. Some small flounder starting.

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station says the ratio of keeper flounder are presently 1 out of 5, with better numbers to come. A few weakfish being caught at Massapequa Cove along with a few fluke, but plenty of porgies. Snappers have been fair at the bridges. Some weaks at the bridges on drifted live snapper. Blues mixed in here. Looks like good mixed bags available.

Ted at **Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station** reported some decent flounder action at pole #9 in the Four Corners Area. Top catch of the week was made by Charlie Fisk of Woodhaven with 18 flatties in the ¾ to 1 lb. range. They were taken on clams and worms at pole #9. Fluke are still being taken in the area and Ted said that this looks like the last run for these fish. Blueclaw crabs still being taken in good numbers in the Bay.

MERRICK

Merrick Tackle Bellmore reports small flounder being caught in the holes throughout the bay on worm or clam. Plenty of porgies in the bay, particularly at the bridges and in the deeper holes. Good size snappers all over the place.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of a 34½ lb. striper and 18 lb. blue caught last Saturday in Haunts Creek on live bunker by Buddy Holmes and Jerry LaVacca. Some weaks in the bay hitting flounder rigs tipped with worm. A true mixed bag at Merrick Point and the north end of Rowboat alley on clam or worm bait. Some decent flounder are hitting in Swift Creek and the

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Ten-year-old Joseph Guenkel hefts a brace of weaks weighing 8 and 10 lbs. They were landed on the family boat, Little Joe, off of Jones Beach. Subscriber photo.

blackfishing has picked up at the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers and green crabs.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports blues have been consistent at Cholera responding to bait and chum, fish in the 3-5 lb. range. Flounder have started in the bay and are expected to build. A few blueclaw crabs still around to be caught. Bluefish have been trolled off the Pink hotel in 40' of water and a few weaks have been taken at the bridges on sand worms and clam chum.

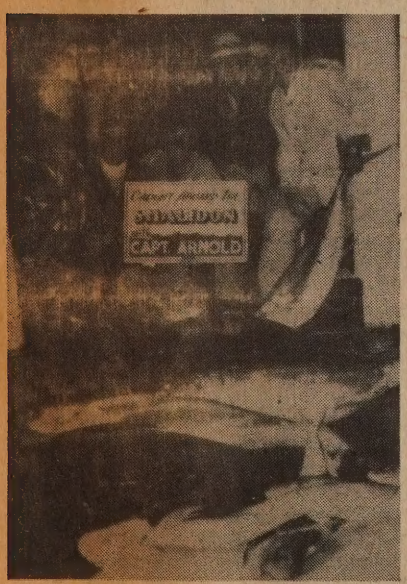
WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

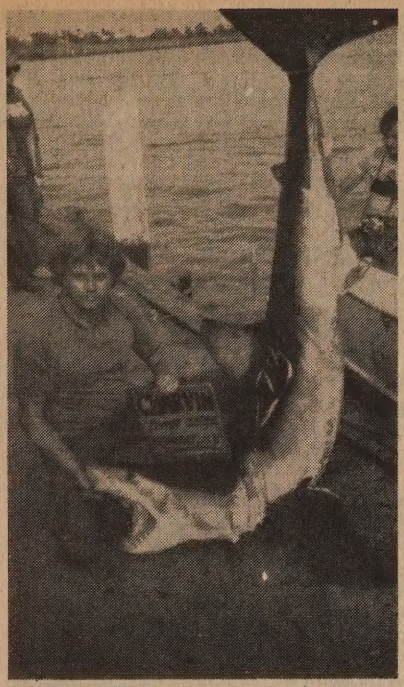
Starstream II reports super excellent bluefishing days and nights on Wednesday and Thursday. Jigging works best daytime, but bait is getting the blues also. At night, it's all bait fished on the bottom with a 6 oz. sinker. These bruisers are 8-16 lb. fish, with sizzling bonito mixed in. Captain Richie says that the fishing is fast and steady.

The Captain Al reports Thursday's bluefishing at Cholera was very good. Twenty-one blues was the score for Jerry Krystal of Nanuet, New York. Five pound bonito are also mixed in. The boat is fishing bait on day trips, also on night trips. Eleven men got 156 blues and 75 bonito Thursday night at Cholera. Al says the fish are in close in heavy concentrations now and fishing should remain constant. He sees a strong fall season coming.

Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou III** says he's been having excellent flounder catches everyday, high hooks steadily in the thirties. Herb Schwartz of Long Beach boated 35 flounder Thursday along with 64



Jim Rainey and friends with a very impressive catch made at the distant Hudson Canyon. Included were 7 yellowfins, 3 albacore, 6 tilefish, 18 dolphin, and a 225 lb. hammerhead shark. All of the action was aboard the charter boat, "Shalidon."



This 273 lb. white shark was landed in 140' of water, S.E. of Fire Island Inlet by the crew of the Fish Frye. Shark was weighed in at Charvin Fishing Station.

porgies. Friday's fishing was very good also even in the high and gusting winds and there were even a few weaks mixed in. Excellent blacks, sea bass and blowfish mixed in, for a super mixed bag which Mike says improves daily.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** tells us he had 8 lb. 1 oz. fluke Wednesday for Gil Sandvoss of North Branch, New York. They hit the Ambrose Channel and had fluke and blues mixed in. The bluefish trips have been hit and miss all week at Cholera, daytime. On Sunday 50 blues were decked in the afternoon in the 3-5 lb. range with an occasional 12 lber. Saturday Captain Charlie Adams on the **Blue Fin** baited blues close to the beach off Lido following breaking fish and working birds, fish 2-3 lbs. Saturday night, Capt. Ed Geyer on the Bluefin II worked 17 Fathoms for a good catch of blues.

The **Miss Freeport II** has been having a fair pick on medium size flounder and has been getting a lot of sand porgies and tin bass. The flounder will be improving as the water cools. The boat is working Reynolds Channel, Swift Creek and Baldwin Bay.

The **Aloma II** reports on Wednesday, Ray Thompson of Bellmore bagged 38 flounder and a half-bucket of palm sized porgies plus some small sea bass. Captain Spider says the day action is excellent.

Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports some flounder are being caught on sand worm and chum in Swift, Long and Haunts

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Creeks at Baldwin Bay. Some weaks at the bridges on live snapper and some tuna are being trolled at the mud hole (footballs) along with some albies and bonito.

Freeport Boatmens Association reports Tuesday night the **Atlantic** loaded up a few miles east of Cholera with blues. Wednesday, **Atlantic, Norsemen II** and **Nite Owl II** all had good blues in the same area as did Capt. Walt Scott's **Acme II**. This was all on chum and bait, nice steady catching. Thursday night **Nite Owl II** did it again east of Cholera with good blues. These were all 5-9 lbers with a lot of bonito mixed in. The **Lady J II** also has been loading up on blues and bonito in the same area.

Lou at **Charvin Fishing Station** tells us that Thursday's bluefishing at Cholera was excellent for both day and night fishermen. Fish ran up to 14¾ lbs. Cholera action appears steady at least up till the storm. All of the bridge locally have been seeing great small porgy and pin bass action, on worms and clam. Still a few fluke locally for those trying. Some local flounder also have started in the deeper holes.

Anthony's Fishing Station says the fluke have bounced back this week with boats getting anywhere from 5-7 fish working Coast Guard station Swift Creek along the bay houses and the area of the drawbridge at Long Creek. Sea bass, fluke and weaks have been mixed in at the bridges and a 2 lb. flounder was caught under the Meadowbrook bridge on worms.

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POINT LOOKOUT

Andy Chisolm of **Scotty's Marina** told us that small flounders and porgies are now being taken in the bay while fluke seem to be on their way out. Some decent blackfishing at the bridge and the Coast Guard Station on fiddlers. Some fluke along with plenty of blues still at the Tin Can Grounds and both blues and weaks taken in the area of the T Wreck. A couple of good bluefish scores were made by boatmen working the beach last week. Bill Obrien had 2 Spanish mackerel among his catch of blues, while Ed Reinflesh managed 2 stripers at the Coast Guard Station in addition to a mess of blues taken outside the inlet. Andy said that leather jacks, members of the Jack family, have been showing up regularly outside the inlet. The fish run from 1 lb. to 1½ lbs., one boat had 12 last week. In 40 to 60' of water, 180 degrees, bonito, albacore and small dolphin in the 2 to 3 lb. class have been accomodating trollers while further offshore a few tuna and skipjack remain to be caught.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** described fishing in the area as a mixed bag. Blackfish are now established at the bridges, while

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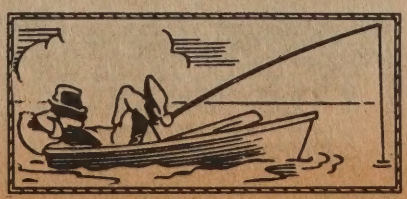

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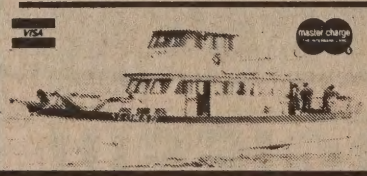

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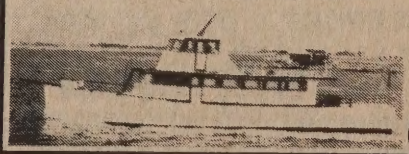

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★FREEPORT★

Peter Vizzio, John Kanakos, John Svenda, and Julio and Dan Calderon with 4-10 lb. fluke taken at Ambrose on the Freeport open boat, "Capt. Lou III."

flounder, seabass and fluke are sprinkled in amongst the catches.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** reports lot of porgies in the bay with 50-60 porgies a man being no big trick. Flounders up to 1 lb. are coming over the rail roughly 12-15 keepers a man with a few weaks and fluke thrown in to break the boredom. It's mainly porgies and flounder and the boat is mainly working Reynolds Channel.

LONG BEACH

At the **LB Sports Marina**, Frank called flounder fishing decent but described the fish as small. He called the bluefishing offshore "great" with fish being trolled from 30' on out. Big blues and weaks remain at the Tin Can Grounds for jiggers and trollers and an occasional big blue taken on bunker around the bridges.

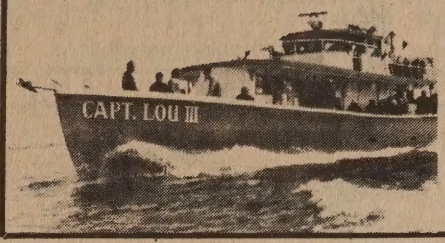
ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Henning's Fishing Station** had just finished weighing up a 17¾ lb. blue taken on a live bunker at the Atlantic Beach bridge by Tony Royal. Tony had several other big choppers in addition to the 17¾ pounder. Blues still being taken at Cholera and big blues being trolled on spoons at Norton's Point. Some bonito and albacore at the Klondike and loads of big snappers roaming Reynold's Channel.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** reported plenty of porgies at the North and South Channel Bridges. Snappers remain in good supply, but John has not heard much else in recent days.

CAPT. LOU III



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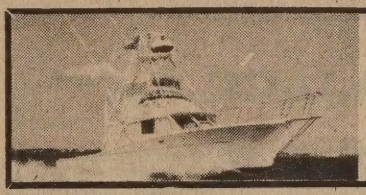

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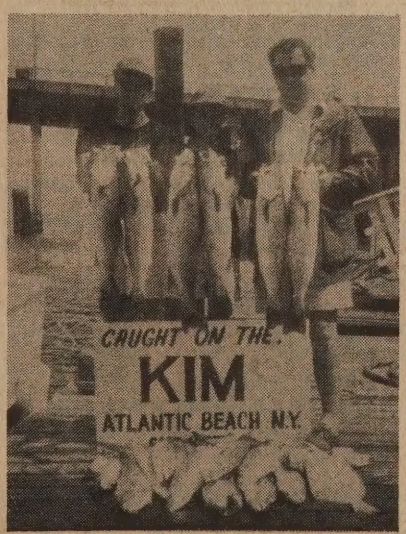

Dave and Ari Goldberg along with friend Al, display a fine catch of big weaks trolled on Lupo umbrella rigs. Fishing was done aboard Capt. Ronnie Lepper's "Kim."

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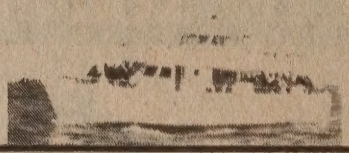

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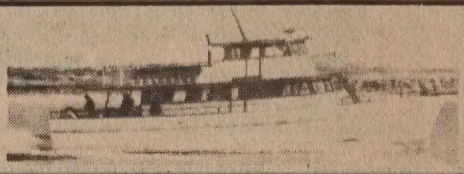

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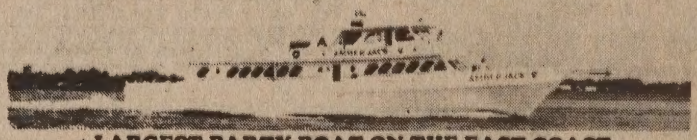

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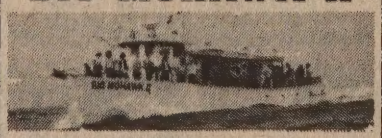

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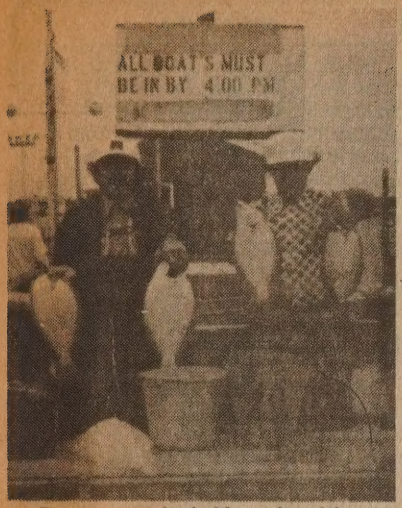

Benny and Izak Kozuch with a few of the 22 fluke they caught in Reynold's Channel. The pair rented a skiff from Ed's Fishing Station in Pt. Lookout.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The openboat **Flamingo III** reports lots of blues in the 3 to 4 lb. range before the storm last week. It was spread from the Tin Can Grounds to the Jersey shore where fares caught from 15 to 25 blues per man on jigs. How the action will be when things settle down remains to be seen.

The new **Amberjack** enjoyed some very good action with blues on several night trips last week. Day action has begun picking up again and should remain steady until the blues depart. On the last offshore wreck trip some excellent cod and pollack fishing was enjoyed by those aboard. Pool winners included Vincent Krizman with a 52 lb. cod and Jim McIntrye with a 38 lb. pollack.

Tom Laurio at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells us the fluking at Ambrose Channel remains good and the fish remain good sized as well. Big blues being caught at Norton's Point, fished on the bottom with 6 oz. sinkers and bunker chunks on the hook. Weaks being taken in Jamaica Bay and under the Marine Parkway Bridge on squid and sand worms. Blacks on fiddlers and green crab at the wrecks, at the Tin Can Grounds and also at the Marine Parkway Bridge pilings. Lots of blueclaw crabs in Jamaica Bay and at the Cross Bay Bridge by the tons. Lots of sand porgies being caught off the Pier at Corvette's. Blues, bonito and albies are being umbrellaed and jigged at the BA.

STATEN ISLAND

The word from **Santo's Sport Shop** is loads of snappers, porgies and spot for pier fishermen. Big blues in the 12 to 15 lb. class being taken on bunker and trolled on Lupo baby bunker spoons at Norton's Point. Three to 5 lb. weakfish being taken on worm bait at buoys 40 and 46. Bigger weaks up to 8 lbs. taking worms near the Great Kills Bug Light. Lenny had no word on stripers in the area.

Jeff and Luke Joerger with a nice catch of fluke made on squid strips at Great Kills, S.I. Subscriber photo.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

GREENPORT

Art White of **A.P White Bait Shop** reported that the openboat **Brand X** enjoyed very good porgy action all week in the Fishers Island area. Pigeon Rip and the Race are still producing some excellent bluefish scores. Most of the fish run 3 to 5 lb. with some 8 to 10 pounders mixed in. This is all on jigs. Blackfishing is now good. The fish however are still on the small side. Some nice flounder between the Point and the ferry slip on worms and clams and bass in the 20 lb. class being taken at the Sluiceway. Art Rathje has been using umbrellas to make some good bass scores in the same area.

SOUTHOLD

At **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** Ace told us that some good porgy scores are being made at the Light and also in Petty's Bight. Blackfish at the Light and Mulford Point and good flounder action at the first set of traps near Orient and also at Petty's Bight. Ace asked us to make readers aware that starting next week the Orient Station will be open 7 days a week. In the Bay, blackfish have been taken at the Brickyard and at Greenlawns. Good sized porgies at buoy 16 and the Brickyard and a few weaks still roaming the bay.

NEW SUFFOLK

Word from **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** was that there was some

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Rick Melloh holds the 65 lb. mako he took on the Islander, 15 miles S.E. of Shinnecock. Subscriber photo.

excellent fishing to be had last week. Teddy Hernandez and Domingo Ramirez returned with 36 weaks, 40 porgies and 4 kingfish from the Rose Grove area. William Ritter and Sterling Turner had 197 porgies up to 1½ lbs. and 36 weakfish to 4 lbs. fishing between Nassau Point and the Rose Grove. James Smith, Mike McCoulen, Steve Page and Ed Branch racked up an umbelieveable score of 150 porgies at buoy 23 one day last week. Weakfish are being taken on worms and squid strips while the porgies are taking clams and worms. Chum is helpful in racking up big porgy scores.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports good fishing over the past week for porgies, large snappers and school weaks. Best action has been concentrated from Long Beach to the Monastery. Helen asked us to make readers aware that as of October 1 they will be closed Wednesdays and open from 8 to 5 the remaining weekdays. Saturday and Sundays hours will remain 6AM to 5PM.

SAG HARBOR

The openboat **Wilhelric** reported porgy fishing much improved now that things have settled down from the storm. Fares average 30 to 50 fish per man. The capt. has been fishing Plum Island, Little Gull and Gardiner's Island.

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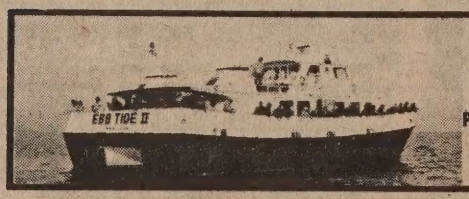
NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

ROCKY POINT

Tom of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported blackfishing getting started but still spotty. Still good bluefishing in the buoy 9 area on jigs and umbrellas. Fish run 2 to 5 lbs. Some porgies still being taken locally in the Sound. For the blues Tom suggested that jiggers try the Tri-Fin sandeel, rip swimmer. Casters take blues on tin in the same area.

★CITY ISLAND★



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PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station told us that lots of blues in the 2 to 5 lb. class remain for trollers and jiggers inside of buoy 11. Plenty of good sized porgies at Old Field and Crane's Neck. Some nice blacks starting to show and plenty of snappers and small porgies keeping anglers busy inside the harbor.

KINGS PARK

Word from **O.K. Bait & Tackle**

Eleven-year-old Jennifer Stremel with the 10 lb. 5 oz. chopper she took on a Rebel with 10 lb. test at Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait and Tackle.

was that 2 to 4 lb. blues still roam the mouth of the river. John Koliner returned with 12 choppers taken on Rebels. Big porgies remain at Crane's Neck and plenty of snappers still in the river. Catch of the week was 14yr. old Laura Smith's first striper ever. The 16'' fish was taken on a piece of worm off of the station dock.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that big blues in the 12 to 16 lb. class are now present in Lloyd's, Hempstead and Cold Spring Harbors. Bunker and plugs take these fish in the early morning or evening hours. Smaller blues, 4 to 5 lbs., at the Obstruction Buoy, the Power Plant and off of Makamah Beach. Jigs are being used to take the choppers at these spots. Small porgies a half mile off the beach at Makamah and also off of Steer's Dock in the harbor. Three to four pound weaks at the latter location on tin and eel worms. Snappers and butterfish all over for dockfishermen.

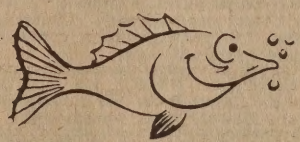
HUNTINGTON

Word from **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** was that plenty of bunkers with big blues amongst them now roam Huntington Bay. Blues up to 15 lbs. being taken on jigs at buoy 11B while 3 to 5 pounders being jigged in good quantity at the Obstruction Buoy. Small Dannys as well as bunkers take the blues in the bay and harbor. An occasional bass on wire and bucktails in the Eaton's Neck Rips. Few porgies and weaks still remain at Sand City. Clams for the porgies, and squid or worms for the weaks. Some nice blacks on fiddler and green crabs at buoys 13 and 11B. This fishing is just getting underway.

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle reported blues at Eaton's Neck on wire. Diamond jigs and umbrella rigs take many 2 to 5 lb. choppers at the Obstruction Buoy. Big blues on bunker chunks in Cold Spring Harbor and a few bass now being worm trolled off of Marshall Field.

MEDFORD

Al at **Tackle Shack Sportsmens Center** tells us weaks and blues have been making a good showing in the morning hours on the North Shore off the Pink Mansion and also off the beach. The fish are hitting anything bright and Al advises that you let your jig hit the bottom, then reel in slowly. The weaks and blues are in the 3-6 lb. range. Porgies and snappers still going strong and all over the place from Cold Spring Harbor to Wading River. Blacks are being caught on fiddlers off Shoreham near any of the underwater rock piles. Loads of very small flounder around which, of course, should be returned to the water unharmed. The recent storm should get things going flounder-wise. Weaks in 7' to 8' of water off Patchogue roughly 100 yards southwest of the town dock on squid strips. Larry Kaider fishing the Patchogue dock with a fly rod, snapper hooks, 6 lb. test line and tiny squid strips took 18 weakfish in the 2-3 lb. range. Al says he's now also carrying guns and ammo plus archery equipment.



Dennis Kelly of Sag Harbor hefts the 55 lb. 12 oz. striper he took out of Plum Gut during the September full moon. The huge bass, which went for a live eel, is being mounted by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy.

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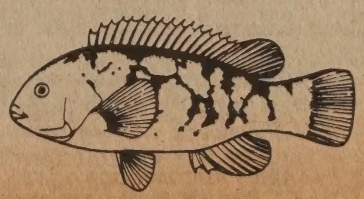

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To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. *(Sorry, no billing.)* Rates for non-subscribers are 25-cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. to run a photograph with an ad, add $16.80 to the words.

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22' 1979 SISU Inboard, lobster canopy hardtop, 4 cyl. Volvo engine, FWC. Fully equipped for sportfishing, loaded with extras. Four flush mount rod holders, automatic Loran C, CB radio, compass. Cuddy cabin with ample storage space and one bunk. Dual battery system. Stern controls and tiller bar. In the water, ready to go. Will demonstrate. Call Ken at 516-728-8566.

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28' MARLIN SPORTFISHERMAN, twin Daytona 300s FWC; 2 stations; trim tabs. All new canvas with bridge enclosure; outriggers; VHF Modar. Impulse digital D/R, W/L fish finder—all new. Sleeps 4. Docked in Montauk. $20,000. 516-589-0276; 589-4183.

14' SEARS 1974 GAMEFISHER; Cox tilt trailer 1974; Johnson 20 h.p. Elec. start 1969; battery, swivel seats, run. lights; compass, depth finder. Many, many extras. All excellent. $1500. 516-698-0476.

1978 MAKO 25' Evinrude 235; total 95 hrs. Complete canvas, CB, depth finder, spotlight, ETC. Cleanest 25 available. $10,900. Weekdays 8-5. 516-582-4566.

INTERNATIONAL 17', 60 h.p. Evinrude, both 1971; 76 Shoreline E-Z roller galvanized trailer. All like new + power winch, and extras. $2400. 516-775-5738.

1975 SEACRAFT "SCEPTRE" 23'; repowered 1978; 225 I/O; SST Prop.; full canvas, side curtains and drop curtain; 2 new batteries with switch; 4 rod holders; 15' outriggers. Wash down pump; CB; VHF; Datamarine "Capree" depth sounder; Gemtronics "GT-1034" white line; Ritchie Compass. Super fishing machine. In mint condition; in water. $16,000. After 7PM. 516-541-5763.

1975 CHRIS CRAFT 22' Fiberglas Center Console Tournament Fisherman. 200 h.p V-8 Inboard. Depth finder; CB; head; spray hood; covers; dual batteries; dual bilge pumps; compass. Low hours. Excellent condition. After 1PM. 516-798-9839.

AQUASPORT 1979 17' Center Console with 1979 Cox drive-on trailer and a 100 h.p. Evinrude. Completely rebuilt in 1978. SST Prop.; center console; canvas. Very clean and fast. Must sell. $5850. 516-798-9381.

HYLANDER Tandem wheel trailer, 1974; galvanized. New tires; wheel bearings; grease caps; spare tire, 2500 lbs. capacity. Excellent condition. $300. After 6PM. 516-884-0040.

40' Twin Diesel Documented Sportfisherman (St. Patrick) GM 6-53s Completely rebuilt 1978, including heads, rods, etc. Keel cooling. Auto. Loran C; Simrad recorder; auto. pilot, Constavolt; 3 fighting chairs; outriggers, gin pole; spotlight, refrigerator. Curtains, Bimini; stainless bow rail; elec. head; pressure F/W, Racor fuel filters; spare props; 2 anchors. Teak cockpit. Sleeps 6. Excellent charter boat. Jerry Kenney, 201-681-3170. Low $20's.

24' 1974 SEA RAY 188 h.p. Merc. I/O, Cuddy; head. Complete canvas; VHF radio; Coast Guard equipment. $6950. EDDIE'S MARINE, 212-327-3088.

1979 HYDRA-SPORTS 2100 Center Console. Fully rigged for shark fishing, offshore trolling, and all inshore fishing. Johnson 200 h.p. with SST prop. Deluxe console with tackle compartment. Rod racks; stainless railing. Stainless T-Top; compass, Sitex recorder; Horizon VHS and console cover. Other extras include stainless bow rail; teak tackle box seat and cover; bait rigging compartments; outriggers; built-in live well. Clean; professionally maintained and serviced. Call SHORE HAVEN MARINA, 201-892-6625. Reasonably priced.

19' FIBERGLAS WINNER 115 h.p. Evinrude with trailer, depth finder and compass included. Day: 212-623-7670. Night: 516-499-4760.

1979 1979 EVINRUDES 1979 1979
2-$244; 4-$328; 6-$460; 9.9-$628; 15-$710; 25-$850; 35-$950; 50-$1197; 55-$1348; 70-$1538; 85-$1740; 100-$1810; 115-$1875- 140-$1975; 150-$2500; 175-$2580; 200-$2680; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

1977 GRADY WHITE 20' Cuddy Cabin; 302 V8 175 h.p. OMC, Deep-V, with 1978 Shoreline E-Z 20-3600 Galvanized trailer; FM stero radio. Super cheater depth fish finder. Many extras. $8500. 516-757-7327.

34' CUSTOM SPORTFISHING Machine. Fully equipped; all electronics. Excellent condition. Will demo. $6000. 516-581-2380.

FOR SALE: 1974 24' Proline. Inboard, Volvo engine 130 h.p. CB; depth finder; compass; rod racks and rod holders included. Canvas cabin. Best Offer. 516-668-3232.

1977 WELLCRAFT V20, cuddy cabin; 140 I/O OMC; full canvas, compass. Bait well pump; rod holders; Coast Guard package. Many extras. Mint Condition. $6500. 212-648-1205.

1978 GRADY WHITE KINGFISH, 25', 9½' beam. Twin Merc 470s, tabs. Custom electronics installation; Sitex; Datamarine, Dytek, horizon; audiovox; Pioneer. Sleeps 4; head, sink, ice box, stove. In water at Montauk. Westcher. 914-834-8661 Eves.

30' REPCO Fiberglas jonesport hull boat with 6 cylinder original Palmer engine rebuilt last year. Completely outfitted for professional sportfishing. Hardtop, 2 fish boxes, compass, Sitex white line graph recorder, CB radio, digital depth recorder, rod racks, cabin with one bunk, etc. $15,000. Call John at 516-668-5130. In water, ready to go, will demonstrate.

30' Wooden Lapstrake Boat, the kind they don't build anymore. Built like a tank, ribs 6" on center. Full keel and flybridge. Eight cylinder Palmer engine with only 400 hrs. Huge insulated fish box, tiller bar, dual batteries, cabin sleeps 2. Large cockpit with two fighting chairs. Excellent seaworthy boat for sportfishing or commercial fishing; for lobsters, light dragging, pinhookers, etc. Call Scott at 516-668-9369. $4000.

23' 3" SEACRAFT 1976 Sportfisherman Cuddy. Fully equipped. Twin 115 h.p. Evinrude; SST Props. Very clean. $9495. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

22' MAKO, 135 Evinrude 1976, VHF; compass; depth recorder; dual battery system; spray hood and Bimini. Many extras. Will demo. $5800. HU 8-1793; 516-887-2815.

28' LUHRS SPORTFISHERMAN formerly used as charterboat. Surveyed and guaranteed. In water. Slip paid for. FWC Chrysler 318; rebuilt '74. $1500 FIRM. 516-588-1227.

1976 AQUASPORT Family Fisherman 1976, 85 h.p. Evinrude. Full canvas, inst. panel; CB; depth finder. Compass, elect. wipers and bilge. In slip. Excl. condition. $5500. 212-456-3543.

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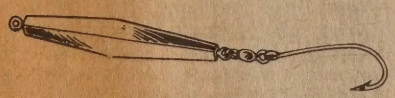

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NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

COLD SPRING Hbr.

Tom at **Salty's Bait & Tackle** told us that Doug Forte weighed in a 14¼ lb. blue which he took on a live bunker in Cold Spring Harbor. Quite a few big blues taken during the past week from the harbor, said Tom. Cooper's Bluff and the C.S.H. Light have been two of the more consistent producing spots. Butterfish baits take the big choppers as well as bunker baits. Tom called the porgy fishing at Marshall Field and Center Island "tremendous". Porgy action is all on clams and worms for a good score chumming is essential. Blackfish up to 3½ lbs. have been putting in an appearance at the jetty at Stehlis Beach. Fiddler crabs take the tautogs. Flounder fishing just getting started. Most fish still small.

CITY ISLAND

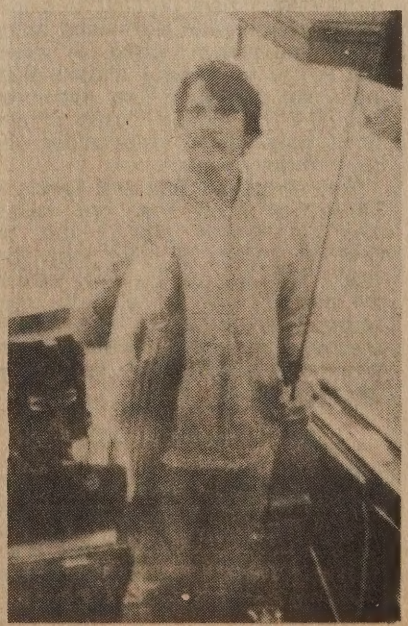
At **Jack's Bait & Tackle** we learned that porgy action remains good at all the usual spots. Big bluefish on bunker at Hart's Island, Stepping Stone Light and the Throgs Neck Bridge. These fish run upwards to 18 lbs. Good school bass action continues at Ft. Slocum and Hart's Island on worms, Rebels and small bucktails. This past week saw more fish in the 5 to 8 lb. class present.

Artie Payne took this 9 lb. blackfish at Prospect Point on a fiddler crab. Photo courtesy of Jack's Bait and Tackle.

Bill Feigle shows off his pool winning blackfish caught on the City Island open boat, "Ebb Tide II."

BRONX

Captain Howie Berlin of the **Claire Fleet** tells us he's been having very good porgy and blackfish catches on both the **Super Claire** and the **Bronx Queen** to the tune of 15-40 porgies a man, with scattered catches of blackfish and medium sized blues. The boats have been working the area from Huntington to Stanford. Howie says the porgies are humpback.



Bob Koziak of "Jack's Bait and Tackle," landed this 7½ lb. striper on an ultra-light spinning rod and 4 lb. test at Hart's Island.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

As expected, the surf has begun to show some signs of life in scattered parts of the Island. Many areas reported plenty of bait in the water. Bunker, mullet and sand eels have been mentioned as being in good supply along our beaches. Most surf casters are anxiously awaiting a good northeast blow to really get things rolling.

How good this fall will be, remains to be seen. Certainly, as John Fritz stated in a recent Surf Side column, "fall runs are not what they used to be." September and October, however, still provide the best chance for casters to grace their fish box with a trophy blue or striper. Cool, crisp air, trees and shrubs dressed in autumn splendor and shorter days, all combine to quicken the pulse of Long Island surfmen. And so it is with optimism that we look forward to "fall run 1979."

SOUTH SHORE: EAST END

Johnny's Tackle Shop in Montauk passed along word that small blues were taken along the sand beaches of the south side last week. The fish come and go and are taken on tins. Last Friday evening, small blues showed up off of North Bar, but for some reason were difficult to catch. Late Friday night, Darters and bottle plugs accounted for some fair weakfish scores for several anglers fishing under the Light. The weaks ran from 7-9 lbs. Johnny knew of one small bass taken from under the Light Thursday night.

Tom of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in Shinnecock knew that one caster took bass of 14 and 27 lbs. on RedFins inside the inlet jetty last week. This was on the east side of the inlet. Bluefish in the 3-4 lb. class come and go along the ocean beaches from Mecox to Shinnecock. Both tins and plugs have been taking the blues.

SOUTH SHORE: WEST

The word from **The Store** was that some nice fluke and weakfish have been taken off of the Sore Thumb on live snappers. An occasional teen-sized blue taken on eels and bunker chunks at Cedar Beach.

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** in Island Park weighed up stripers of 21 and 24 lbs. for Vic Lowenborg of Lynbrook. Vic took the fish on Danny swimmers at Atlantic Beach. Charlie also knew of big blues up to 16 lbs. taken on plugs in the Point Lookout surf last week.

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** told us a few bass taken on bucktails at Cliff Street. Weakfish in the 6-8 lb. class taken from the shore in Great Kills Harbor and at New Dorp on bunker chunks and worms. Big blues up to 12 lbs., taken in Great Kills Harbor last week, while this past Saturday morning saw blues in the 8-10 lb. class hit the beach at Fort Wadsworth. These fish responded to popping plugs.

NORTH SHORE: WEST

The word from **Jack's Tackle shop** in City Island was that big blues up to 12 and 13 lbs. continue to be taken in the early morning hours. The action is on bait at the Orchard Beach jetties and from the shore near the Throgs Neck Bridge. Casters continue to take quite a few school bass at Turtle Cove and the Orchard Beach jetty. Jack added that many of the fish are now in the 5-8 lb. class, as opposed to the many shorts in evidence the past several weeks. Small bucktails, Rebels, and sand worms continue to provide the best scores.

From **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** in Huntington we learned that those with access to the Ashroken shore racked up some fair scores of bass and blues on Rebels last week. Ronnie also knew that a few weaks and blues were picked up at Caumsett. Casters used Rebels, RedFins and Tri-Fin Whiptails to take the fish.

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that bluefish show up now and then along local beaches. Makamah has been the site of the most consistent action. Most activity is confined to the early morning hours or from 4:30 p.m. until dark. Popping plugs have been taking their share of fish, but tins, RedFins and Tri-Fin Eel Worms also provide action.

NORTH SHORE: EAST END

Tom at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** told us that blues in the 10-15 lb. class have been riding herd on the bunker at the Shoreham power plant. Tins, plugs and bunker chunks account for the big choppers. One caster had 14 choppers up to 15 lbs. one evening last week. Fish are also taken in the early morning hours. An occasional bass is starting to be picked up along local beaches, but no real action to speak of.

Ace of the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** knew that casters have been scoring well with tin and bait at Kenney's Beach and at Horton's Point. Ace also knew of a few bass taken in recent days from the same area.

Art White told me from his bait shop in Greenport that some bass and blues are being taken by casters from Horton's Point to Rocky Point which is located in East Marion. Bunker chunks take the blues, while swimming plugs such as Rebels and RedFins produce an occasional striper.

CAPE REPORT

Blues, along with some stripers, being taken in the Canal on bait and plugs; while casters fishing the Provincetown area have been scoring with 3-4 big stripers a night on live eels. Word is that the fish are now moving down from the North Shore.

Pass It On...

FOUR NAMED TO MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Richard A. Frank, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, has appointed three new members and one incumbent to vacancies on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. All appointments are for three years and become effective August 11, 1979.

The Council, established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, is responsible for preparing fishery management plans for stocks of fish found in waters within its geographical area.

The Act requires that members of the Council be selected from lists of qualified individuals submitted by the Governors of the constituent States of the Council.

New members appointed are: Arthur Fass, Executive Vice President, Fass Brothers, Inc., Newport News, VA; Barbara Stevenson, commercial fisherman, Dagsboro, DE; and Dr. Roger Locandro, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

William Feinberg, Attorney, Feinberg, Dee, and Feinberg, Bayonne, NJ, was reappointed.

In addition to the appointed members, the Act establishes as voting members, the principal State official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent State, as designated by the respective Governors, and the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, for the area.

Additional fisheries expertise is provided to the Council through non-voting members consisting of the Regional or Area Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or his designee; the Commander of the Coast Guard District or his designee; the Executive Director of the Marine Fisheries Commission, if any, or his designee, for the geographical area of the Council; and a representative from the State Department.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:59	8:13	8:48	9:04	8:40	8:54	9:30	9:46	–	12:02	11:21	11:39	7:46	8:05	9/20
FRI.	8:35	8:46	9:23	9:37	9:15	9:28	10:05	10:22	12:18	12:25	11:56	–	8:26	8:43	9/21
SAT.	9:10	9:19	9:55	10:12	9:51	10:00	10:39	10:57	12:31	12:39	12:15	12:30	9:03	9:21	9/22
SUN.	9:43	9:54	10:30	10:45	10:23	10:32	11:14	11:33	12:44	12:51	12:49	1:06	9:42	10:00	9/23
MON.	10:18	10:27	11:03	11:20	10:51	11:00	11:51	–	1:12	1:22	1:25	1:41	10:20	10:39	9/24
TUE.	10:55	11:08	11:41	–	11:23	11:35	12:14	12:28	1:49	2:03	2:03	2:19	11:00	11:20	9/25
WED.	11:37	11:50	12:01	12:23	–	12:01	12:56	1:10	2:30	2:46	2:44	3:02	11:46	–	9/26
THUR.	–	12:27	12:43	1:11	12:20	12:49	1:42	2:00	3:17	3:35	3:29	3:48	12:09	12:37	9/27

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:32
9/8	6:32	7:23
9/13	6:37	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:06
9/23	6/48	6:57

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/21	9/29	9/6	9/13

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	4:20	10:45	4:45	11:10
Fri.	4:55	11:30	5:25	11:55
Sat.	5:40	—	6:10	12:20
Sun.	6:30	12:40	6:55	1:05
Mon.	7:20	1:30	7:40	1:55
Tues.	8:10	2:20	8:30	2:45
Wed.	9:00	3:10	9:20	3:35
Thurs.	9:50	4:05	10:15	4:30

TOUGH NEW STREN®, TWICE AS TOUGH AS THE NEXT BEST FISHING LINE

In lab tests for durability, hundreds of results proved new Stren® twice as tough as other leading lines.

And in the scuffs and scrapes of actual fishing, fishermen like Capt. Dick Rode, Marathon, Fla., are reporting fish-saving toughness:

"We've tried just about every line available, and new Stren beats them all."

Prove it to yourself.

After a hard day's fishing, compare the smoothness of new Stren to any other line you've used.

Fill your reels with tough new Stren, clear blue or golden. And go get tough with any fish.

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